

'Oh dear, I'm in trouble,' the captain said as his frigate hit London Bridge

Pilot's warning to use tugs ignored by commander

From Colin Hughes, Portsmouth

Commander Colin Hamilton, Captain of HMS Jupiter, said "Oh dear, I'm in trouble," as his Leander class frigate drifted broadside on and collided with London Bridge, a court martial in Portsmouth was told yesterday. He had tried to turn without tugs.

Commander Hamilton, aged 40, commanded an offshore patrol vessel, HMS Leeds Castle, during the Falklands conflict, admits negligently stranding the 2,900-tonne HMD Jupiter on London Bridge by ignoring a senior Port of London pilot's advice.

The collision caused £25,000 worth of damage to the bridge, moving a granite section of one of its two central supports about eight inches.

It took three weeks to repair the ship's dented hull and mountings.

Commander Hamilton, who lives in Devonport, faces penalties ranging from reprimand to dismissal from his ship on half pay.

The frigate, on which the Prince of Wales served as a junior officer, dropped berth from alongside the permanently moored museum, HMS Belfast, on June 13, to turn down river before leaving the Port of London Pool after a one-week visit.

Lieutenant Mark Rothwell, Jupiter's navigating officer, said that he advised the captain to use two tugs to swing the 372ft long ship in a stretch of water 1,200ft long and 560ft wide.

Mr John Cooley, the Admiralty-approved pilot on board, who had performed that turn with 200 ships, repeatedly asked Commander Hamilton to tie on to two tugs, said Lieutenant

Commander Jim McGowan, for the prosecuting officer.

When Mr Cooley realised that the captain was going to turn "by eye", using the ship's power, he gave a firm warning that it would be contrary to his professional advice, Lieutenant Commander McGowan said.

As Jupiter moved upstream Lieutenant Rothwell stood by the captain on the bridge and as he saw the Belfast fall astern said: "Sir, you are not going to leave the wheel over too late are you?"

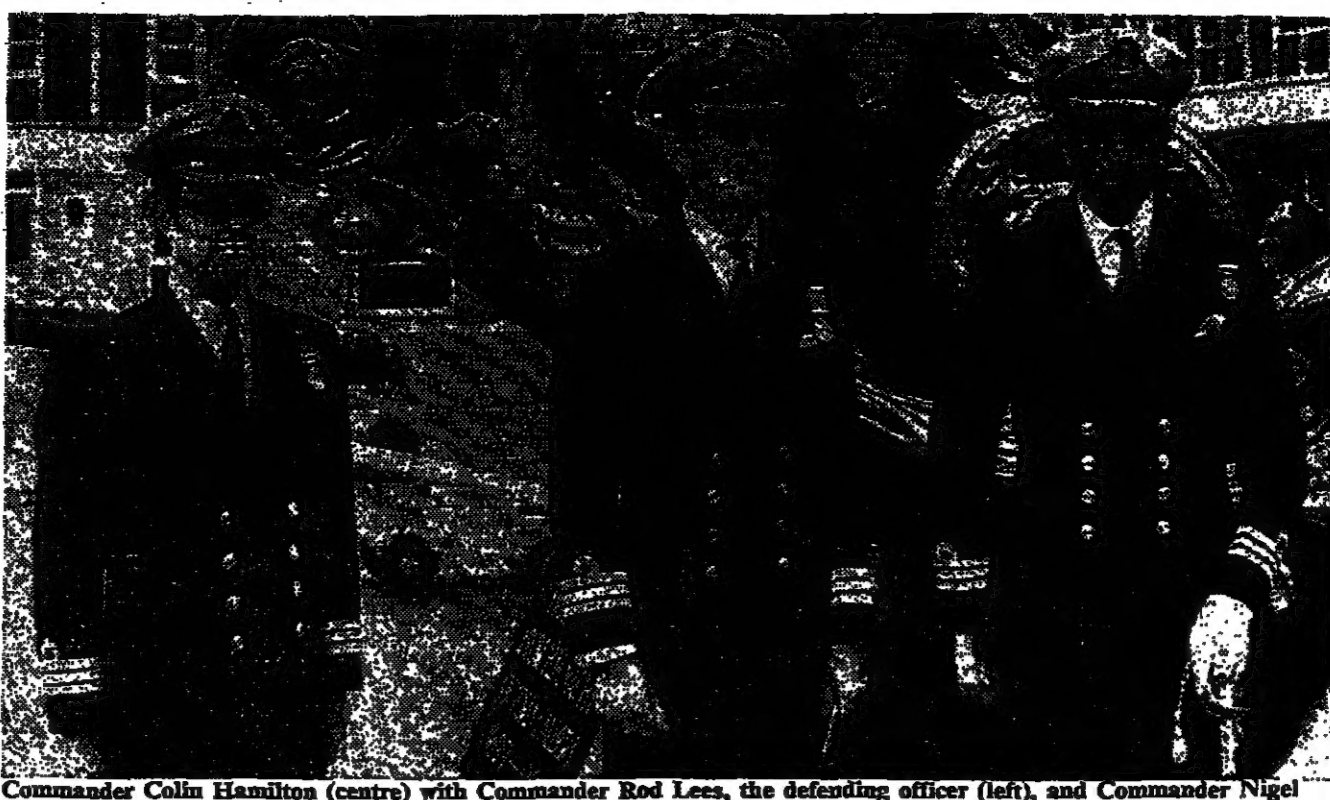
Twice more the navigating officer said: "I think you should wheel over now sir", before the captain began to wheel to port. By that time, Lieutenant Commander McGowan said, the ship was 400 feet from London Bridge, being carried at 100 feet a minute by the tide towards its arches.

Once the captain saw that he could not complete the turn and collision was inevitable "he took speedy and correct action to minimize the damage", Lieutenant Commander McGowan said.

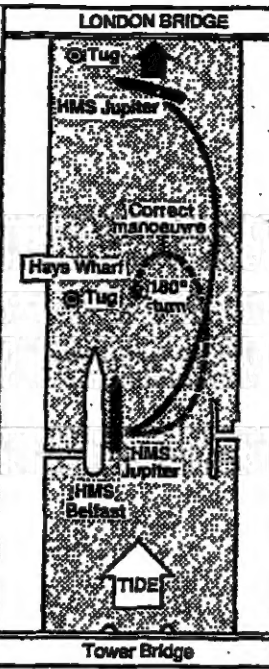
Mr Cooley asked the captain if he wanted the two tugs, Iona and Sun Swale, to pull the frigate clear. Commander Hamilton "appeared somewhat stunned", and said: "I might as well say it now, I apologize".

Commander Hamilton denies failing properly to plan the manoeuvre, turning after being warned that one tug was too far away, and failing to call in the other tug in sufficient time.

Lieutenant Commander McGowan said the captain did not believe the pilot was aware of the superior speed and manoeuvrability of naval vessels. The hearing continues today.



Commander Colin Hamilton (centre) with Commander Rod Lees, the defending officer (left), and Commander Nigel Essenhigh, his navigation adviser. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)



Collision course for HMS Jupiter (above)

Late videos blamed for tired children

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Teachers are allowing primary school children, aged nine, 10, and 11, to sleep through lessons because they are tired after watching videos at home until late at night, an MP told a select committee yesterday.

Mr Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, said that when he visited a school on the outskirts of London recently he saw two children fast asleep at 10.30am. He said: "The teacher said she could not wake them because they had to have some sleep sometime. She said they were often up all night."

Mr Greenway, who was questioning the National Union of Teachers (NUT) as part of the inquiry by the Select Committee on Education into primary schools, added that 80 per cent of children in that school had video recorders at home, and about a third of those had parents who were unemployed. He asked what could be done about children

staying up until late to watch videos.

Miss Joan Davenport, a headteacher of Woodhouse Park School, Manchester, and a member of the NUT's executive, replied that many children in her school watched videos very late or had a television in their bedrooms.

She added: "By lunchtime many are very tired and some come to school at 9am yawning."

Mr Bill Rippon, head of Redwood Junior School, Salford, Derbyshire, said that there was evidence that because of videos the behaviour of many young children caused more concern now than it did 10 years ago.

He said: "There is some evidence that the indiscriminate watching of television and now video recorders where they will see very violent scenes, and certainly hear violent and aggressive language, causes children to imitate."

Mother's stand on caning reconciled

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

An order placing two boys in care because their mother refused to allow them to be caned, was lifted yesterday by the crown court in Cardiff.

The boys had been kept away from their school in Mid Glamorgan, for more than a year, after the youngest was caned on the hand for missing detention. The mother said that they should be allowed to attend the school 400 yards from their home, but she refused to let them be subjected to "inhuman and barbarous treatment".

Mid Glamorgan County Council insisted that they could not be excluded from the normal discipline of the school and offered them a place in another nearby, which does not use the cane. That offer was rejected.

The court was told yesterday that since the care order in October the two teenage boys had been living with relatives and attending a third school which has just abolished corporal punishment.

An agreement reached in court means that the boys will be allowed to return to live with their mother while attending their new school, and transport costs will be met by the council.

Mr Malcolm Bishop, representing the boys, said: "They have always fully supported the action taken by their mother."

The mother, who has been supported in her fight by the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (STOPP), said: "It has been a long fight but I would go through it all again. I believe caning can be very damaging."

Youth who killed couple given 'life'

David Carty, aged 18, was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of the murder of two teenage sweethearts whose bodies were left in a builder's dumper truck. He was sentenced to youth custody for life.

Robert Vaughan, aged 17, died when his throat was cut. His fiancée, Michelle Sadler, also aged 17, was sexually assaulted and then strangled with a length of wire. They were attacked at the premises in Southwark, south London, where the youths worked.

Mr Ron Vaughan, the dead boy's father, said of Carty: "I am not glad he has gone down. He was only a seventeen-year-old boy at the time."

Carty, of Peterhill House, Linsey Street, Bermondsey, had denied murdering the couple.

Doctor failed to help dying cancer patient

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A terminally ill cancer patient suffered great distress and severe pain in the hours before his death because a hospital doctor failed to answer a call from nursing staff for at least three hours and the staff refused to call another doctor, the ombudsman has found.

In a report published yesterday, Sir Cecil Clothier, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Health Service, said that there was "inordinate delay" in the patient receiving medical attention. "This was a failure in basic medical care and a serious failure in the service which the health authority had a duty to provide."

Sir Cecil said that drug records appeared to have been altered, and that "while certain staff told me they could not now recall the patient, they were none the less emphatic about his condition at various times during the night".

In a separate case, a hospital inquiry had found that an elderly female patient had been assaulted but the health authority upheld a nursing auxiliary's appeal against her dismissal.

She then went back to work on a ward with another nurse who had been on duty when the

alleged assault took place, although both claimed not to have noticed bruising round the patient's lips and eyes, or congealed blood round her nostrils which day staff saw when they came on duty.

Sir Cecil criticized staff for failing to report the grandmother's complaint that she had been hit, and for delays in completing an accident form and in telling the patient's granddaughter about tests on her grandmother's injuries.

Report of the Health Service Commission. Selected investigations April to September, 1984. (Stationery Office, £9.90.)

Northampton General Hospital opened an inquiry yesterday into a "medical mishap" that killed Linda Shoolbridge, aged 17, who died in July from a burst appendix after three family doctors had failed to diagnose her condition.

When she was finally admitted to hospital there was a four-hour wait before she was seen by a doctor. After surgery she was put on a life-support machine, which was switched off nine days later.

At an inquest last week the coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

Servicemen accuse Private Eye

Eight Servicemen charged under the Official Secrets Act yesterday asked a judge in the High Court in London to jail Private Eye editor, Mr Richard Ingrams, for contempt of court.

The five airmen and three soldiers claimed that an article in the current issue of the magazine was "highly damaging" and "wickedly prejudicial" to their trial, scheduled for April.

Mr Dermot Wright, for seven of the Servicemen, told Lord Justice Watkins that the article contained "shocking facts."

They were: that the Soviet Union had gained access to classified codes; that secret operations penetrating deep into the Soviet Union had been rendered useless; that reports of the damage caused had stunned President Reagan's advisers; and that a KGB plan including homosexual blackmail was involved.

Neither Mr Ingrams nor the magazine was represented at the hearing.

The judge refused to issue an immediate Bench warrant for the editor's arrest and adjourned the hearing until tomorrow.

Award for village scheme

Elm village, a development of 162 homes on four acres of derelict railway land next to the Grand Union Canal north of St Pancras Station in London, was given a Housing Centre Trust golden jubilee award last night by Sir George Young, Under Secretary of State of Environment (Our Property Correspondent writes).

Camden council provided the land, the Housing Corporation and the Halifax and Nationwide building societies provided the finance, and the developers were the United Kingdom Housing Trust.

BSC ship for Belfast yard

Harland and Wolff, the state-owned Belfast shipyard, is to build a 173,000-tonne bulk carrier for the British Steel Corporation in a £30million deal announced yesterday.

Mr John Parker, the Belfast company's chairman and chief executive, said that the order would guarantee jobs in the company's steel working group and outfitting sections for up to two years.

Beef and lamb sales fall

Consumption of beef and lamb in Britain has dropped by a fifth in the past four years, according to a report published yesterday by Taylor Nelson, a market research company.

The fall in the red meat's popularity is attributed to cost and concern about eating excessive fat.

Banks' computer data 'inadequately protected'

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Bank's computer systems are inadequately protected even though sensitive data and large sums of money are stored electronically on them, according to an expert on computer security.

Mr Vincent Gallo, technical director of Open Computer Security, outlines his fears in this month's issue of Banking Technology. He says: "Such is the proliferation of microcomputers in the home, and the growth of computer studies at an early age in our schools, that we are creating a generation with the expertise to manipulate computer systems."

"All the equipment required to tap into an unprotected

system can be purchased off-the-shelf in any main shopping centre at the cost of only a few hundred pounds."

The allegations appear a week after a second breach of security on Prestel, the British Telecom information system. Home computer enthusiasts are believed to be responsible.

The main clearing banks were asked to comment on Mr Gallo's allegations. At the time of publication only National Westminster had issued a statement. It read: "We place great emphasis on the security of our systems, but for the obvious reasons we do not discuss the precautions we take."

Pirate Asian films seized in Southall

Police officers seized more than 100 video recorders and thousands of cassettes in an anti-piracy raid on Indian shops, homes, and businesses in the West London suburb of Southall yesterday. (David Hewson writes).

The Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT), which organised the raid with the Metropolitan Police, said that several individuals were likely to face court proceedings. Mr Peter Duffy, a former Scotland Yard officer who heads FACT's investigation unit, said that the effect of piracy meant that from more than 100 Asian cinemas in Britain three or four years ago, there were now none.

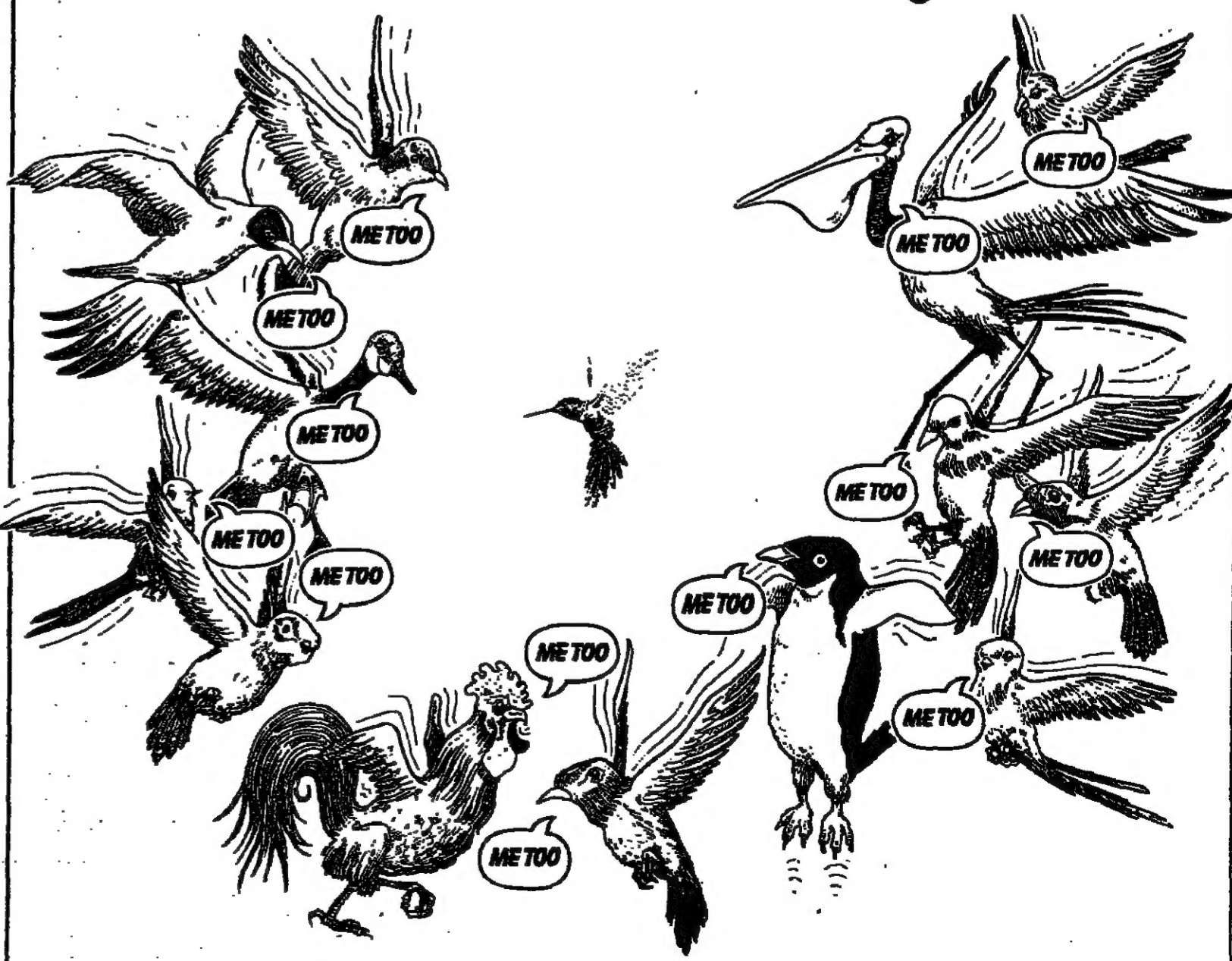
Fears raised over tenants' repairs proposal

Council tenants given the right to carry out house repairs which are usually the local authority's responsibility could end up paying the bill, the National Consumer Council says in response to the Government's draft "right to repair" regulations (Our Property Correspondent writes).

The regulations, under the Housing and Building Control Act, 1984, would give tenants the right to have repairs costing between £20 and £200, carried out by themselves or a builder at the local council's expense, provided the council agrees.

The consumer council fears that the procedures are so complex that most tenants will not be able to understand them.

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Students will still be heavily subsidized

EDUCATION

Notwithstanding a barrage of protest from Conservative backbenchers and criticism from the Opposition, the Government's plan to increase parental contributions to student maintenance by £39 million was defended in the Commons by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

While dismissing Labour complaints as being in the never never land of no economic constraint, Sir Keith Joseph conceded to Conservative critics that one of the severest aspects of the proposal was that it deflated deeply entrenched expectations - it was a shock to many, if not all, of the households affected.

He pointed out that any further phasing would cost money that in his opinion was needed to prevent the science research base from suffering seriously.

Over 50 Conservatives stood to support Sir Keith Joseph's plan, which would see the Government's contribution towards students' tuition fees fall from 100 per cent to 80 per cent by 1987-88.

Strasbourg (Wokingham, C) said that when the change was made by Mr Mulley, as he was in 1977, there had previously been a painstaking inquiry by the University Grants Committee and the vice chancellors, and considerable consultation.

What is placing great strain on the loyalty of many Tory backbenchers is the continued failure to discover in the essentially financial regulation a change which in the view of many will have fundamental consequences to entry into higher education in future.

Sir Keith Joseph: I do not accept the use of the word "fundamental". After all, it is the Government's duty from time to time to review the balance between the taxpayer's contribution and the family-pludent contribution to the cost of higher education. That is what the Government has done. That does involve a change but not a fundamental change.

Mr Mark Carlisle (Warrington South, C) the former Secretary of State for Education and Science: In 1979 we said officially that our first priority was to ensure that as money became available, would be to reduce the parental contribution.

What has changed since then to bring about such an apparent dramatic change in our proposals?

Sir Keith Joseph: The change in circumstances has made it right for the Government to pursue, above all, the constraint of public spending in relation to the nation's revenue as a whole. We have had to bear that constantly in mind.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee East, SNP): While expressing the strongest possible opposition to changes in grants because of the hardship it will cause, the decision to put a greater burden on parents will have repercussions on Scottish universities particularly which run a four year graduation course. The Government does not seem to have taken account of that.

Sir Keith Joseph: Whether it is a three year or a four year course, and I cannot tell which is the more advantageous in the circumstances.

the subsidy paid by the taxpayer towards the student's higher education is large.

Mr Ralph Howell (Norfolk North, C): Many Conservative backbenchers fully support Sir Keith Joseph's action. Probably quite a few who have signed the motion against the proposals wish they had not done so.

Sir Keith Joseph: I hope the whole House will bear in mind that taxpayers of all income levels contribute heavily indeed to the higher education of a minority whose education, it is true, also benefits those students.

Mr Marilyn Rees (Leeds, South and Morley, Lab): I agree with Sir Keith Joseph's facts about 1976-77 when the matter of student maintenance was first raised.

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few weeks, will be admitted that his proposals are unacceptable, because they introduce charges for tuition fees which is breaking a principle: because they fail to recognize the 14 per cent decline in the real value of the student grant since 1979; and because they make students and parents pay for the scientific research that the whole country needs.

He should immediately abandon his proposals, establish a review of support for all in further and higher education and go back to the Treasury for the extra money needed for research.

Sir Keith Joseph: He still seems to be living in the never-never land of no economic constraint. The Labour Party made charges towards tuition fees for seven years before altering it.

Though he says student maintenance grants have fallen 14 per cent in recent years, that coincides with a record level of applications and of accepted entries to higher education.

After it was revealed that 1,800 representations had been received, Mr Andrew Mackay (East Berkshire, C) said: He must be aware of these massive representations that in many cases there will be real and sudden hardship. Would it not be more prudent to withdraw these ill-considered proposals? (Conservative cheers.)

Instead, would he announce a full inquiry into the financing of further education including a closer look at the merits of a loan scheme?

Sir Keith Joseph: I accept that the proposals are a shock to not all the households affected. I cannot say more than that.

Mr Edward Taylor (South East, C): While he has advanced a powerful case, there is genuine concern about the speed with which the decision was made and the suddenness of the changes that will disrupt carefully planned family budgets.

Would he be willing to look again at the phasing of his proposals? In any review is there any place for a loan scheme?

Sir Keith Joseph: I have accepted from the start that 11 months is by no means ideal. But the gentle words of Mr Taylor which hides the fact that any changing would cost money and money, which in my judgment, is needed as a national priority to prevent the science research base from suffering perhaps in some grave and serious form.

Mr Max Madden (Barnford West, Lab): The proposals are fundamentally misconceived and undoubtedly severe. This represents a further attack on the standard of living of many students and their parents, including those from ethnic minorities.

In view of the widespread concern, he will not establish a comprehensive review into the grant structure of our university students?

Sir Keith Joseph: Students will remain even after these proposals very heavily subsidized by the general body of taxpayers, many of whom are much less well-off than most students will be.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C): The most serious aspect of the current proposals is that they damage the vital principle of equal

opportunity of access to higher education for all sections.

Sir Keith Joseph: For once I cannot say I am prepared to accept what he says. Maybe Mr Greenway will write to me and explain his reasoning.

Mr James Lawson (Oldham Central and Royton, Lab) said that in hearing the attacks from many Conservative MPs, he recalled the Scottish saying - "Touch my pouch and friendship ceases".

Sir Keith Joseph: He has to accept that the Conservative MPs have a right to be heard. I do not think I can offer any firm prospect

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): Does he remember coming before the Select Committee in the last Parliament and endorsing the policy which had been adopted by Mr Mark Carlisle's announcement that there will be fewer applications for the science, technology and engineering places which we are deliberately increasing in number.

He said later: I am receiving a large number of expressions of opinion from parents, directly and through MPs which I cannot help taking seriously.

Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C): Will he accept that there is no demonstrable link between the amounts of public expenditure on higher education and the performance of the economy. The arguments that purport to show there is are humbug?

Sir Keith Joseph: I agree with every word.

Later, Mr John Biffen, leader of the House, deputizing for the Prime Minister who was in Dublin, faced more questions on the issue.

Mr John Goss (Hendon North, C): What does he ensure that we may be in further satisfaction at the decision in which the Government is leading us by a review of the direction with regard not only to student grants but also to the taxation of VAT on books and the abolition of the BBC and cuts in the British Council?

Mr Biffen: It is one of his engaging characteristics that he has never been one to back in satisfaction. A distinguished member of his sat in this house before the gateway as a member of the fourth party, and the manifesto he has just outlined is appropriate for that.

Mr Frank Dobson (Holborn and St Pancras, Lab): Will he also suggest to the Prime Minister there is a possibility of saving in the education department budget if the Government will immediately cut the estimated £30 million subsidy to the public schools by abolishing the assisted places scheme. (Labour cheers.)

Mr Biffen: This debate can be set in many contexts, but I doubt if most Conservatives - advocating reconsideration of the policy would choose that route.

ask him to face up to the problem of public expenditure discussions.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central, Lab): I fear existing parents and students about future funding of university and polytechnic courses. Would he give a clear commitment that it is not his intention during the lifetime of this Government to introduce a loan scheme for students?

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government has already put on record that loan schemes are not at the moment on the agenda. If the Government wished to bring them back on to the agenda, an announcement would be made and consultation would be embarked upon.

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Government has landed itself in a ghastly mess - Heath

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Government had landed itself in a ghastly mess over its plans to abolish the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan county councils, and there was no logic in its approach to local government as a whole, Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister, said in the Commons when MPs resumed the second reading debate on the Local Government Bill.

Mr Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup) said the measure, which abolishes these councils, was a major constitutional change, and it was without precedent because there had not been any public inquiry as a basis for it.

The case against the GLC and the metropolitan counties (he said) remains still completely unproven.

Mr Heath advised Mr Patrick Jenkin (Secretary of State for the Environment) to be ready with a plan for the overall government of London to go with the rest of the Bill if the House of Lords amended the Bill.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, when he opened today's debate, predicted there would be substantial staff savings when borough and district councils took over highway responsibilities, following the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties.

The House also had before it an Opposition amendment declining to give a second reading to the Bill because of the Government's failure to provide for a public inquiry into the case for the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties.

Mr Ridley said transport functions accounted for more than 40 per cent of GLC and metropolitan county expenditure. Under the Bill roads and traffic management would be transferred to the boroughs and districts which were in many cases doing much of the work already.

I do not believe, he said, that great city councils like Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Liverpool and Sheffield, whatever the eccentricities of their political parties, can manage their own roads and traffic in sensible cooperation with neighbouring districts.

In some cases the districts might need to recruit a limited number of specialist council staff. But many boroughs and districts had made it clear to the Government that they would not need anything like the numbers - nearly 9,000 in total - currently employed by the GLC and metropolitan county councils on road and highways work.

I confidently predict (he said) that savings in this area will be substantial. Financial arrangements would be made to ensure the boroughs and districts had the resources to handle the management of roads and traffic effectively. The Bill provided for them to receive the support through block grants and transport supplementary grants previously available to the upper tier authorities.

In London he proposed to take direct responsibility for about 70 per cent of the GLC's roads - 65 out of 95 miles. The remaining 30 miles

would go to the boroughs, although on 300 miles of major strategic importance they would need his consent before introducing measures which would seriously affect through traffic.

The GLC had done virtually nothing about London's roads and the problems sorely needed tackling. It had in recent years seen its strategic responsibilities in terms of spending money on political campaigns suggesting the Government intended to carpet London with motorways.

The passenger transport authorities would have the power to provide for concessionary fares for the elderly and disabled so that there was no reason why present arrangements should not continue if that was what local people wanted. Districts would have powers to provide for concessionary fares if they preferred.

There is no threat in this or forthcoming legislation to concessionary fares (he said).

Money which would have gone to support public transport and concessionary fares through transport supplementary grant would be paid, instead, through block grant.

Mr Gwyneth Dawood, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said that the Government had created grave problems by removing the strategic transport authority. That was why Mr Ridley had openly admitted that one essential would be a degree of co-operation between councils to make up for that.

Wherever councils could not agree, the people who had brought about the enormous muddle would be those who would take the final decisions.

The Government's consultation document on concessionary fares made plain that in a deregulated and privatized environment the travel card approach to concessionary fares would be much too complex to operate because there would be far too many companies involved.

It was important to make sure that all the old age pensioners who at present relied on their bus pass would be able to continue to use public transport to do their shopping, take their children to school and to get to work understood just how indifferent the Government was to their needs.

Many people were beginning to understand the extent of the damage

totally to misrepresenting the case being quoted which was about defining the duty of the new ILEA to consult the inner London boroughs on objectives.

In order to guide ILEA and the London boroughs on what objectives needed to be consulted about the Bill provided that the Government might define what was an objective.

He said that the Opposition would drop altogether the suggestion that there was an intent to interfere with the objectives of the new ILEA.

ILEA was extravagant. It was spending per pupil 20 per cent more than Manchester, 30 per cent more than Newcastle, 54 per cent more than Bradford and 59 per cent more than Birmingham. Those cities had much the same population as ILEA. There was plenty of scope for ILEA to economize.

The Opposition seemed to think that this was also a centralizing Bill. It was an absurd fabrication and a complete distortion of truth. This was a decentralizing and democratic Bill.

To talk of some power being retained by the Government to interfere in ILEA's objectives was

rejected suggestion categorically, but it was important to remember that landscape of high value did not exist only within the national park.

The Secretary of State approved the sincerity of the Dartmoor Preservation Association and acknowledged their deeply held view that this road should not go through any part of the national park but the city did not have to carry responsibility for where else the road might go.

The chosen route of the bypass was supported by the local parish councils and the district council of the area concerned. They represented the people who lived there and who had achieved the objective of saving the matter debated on the floor of the House before it went before the select committee, he would withdraw his motion.

On behalf of the Government he

Mr Ridley was going to do. He should have thought of that before he allowed himself to be involved in this appalling bit of legislation. If he was really ashamed of what he was doing he should apologize and agree to remove all of this from the Bill.

The Bill was not about improving local transport or lowering the rates. It was about the power of the Secretary of State to impose on democratically elected councils his own despotic, arrogant views.

The Bill was about vindictive. People would find that basic decisions were being taken by those who had voted for but by those arbitrarily appointed by the Secretary of State.

The Bill would mean unhappiness for the old, lack of transport for the disabled, and arrogant insensitivity to the transport needs of the metropolitan counties.

Mr Heath said many Conservative MPs were concerned not with the Opposition's many contradictions or the idiotic remarks of Mr Ken Livingstone, but with the good government of London. There was deep anxiety.

Junior ministers in the Department of the Environment had stood on their heads over this Bill. But Mr Jenkin said: "It does not matter if I am standing on my feet or my head; it makes no difference." This made it embarrassing for somebody trying to be helpful. (Laughter.)

If the case for abolition was proven, why was the Government not abolishing the county shires too? Some of these were larger, had greater populations and were more remote from people than the authorities being abolished. The case for abolition was not proven.

The Government talked about the case being justified because abolition was in the manifesto. It was put in nine days after the election was called against the wishes of the party policy committee, and without the agreement of London MPs. The consequences were now there for all to see.

On his suggestion for an overall government of London, he said London committee was not to the point. It would not be democratically elected and could be altered by governments for their own purposes.

There was only one purpose and that was that the Government could have more and more power over local authorities and deny them the right to elect their own representatives. He wanted them to have in order to carry out services. That was more damaging than anything else.

He had tried not to introduce party politics into this, but he was going to happen to political influence in London. The London Borough's Association was going to be Labour controlled. In Manchester the council was going to be more extreme than the Greater Manchester Council.

As a Conservative (he said) I do not see the point of this. (Laughter.) Of course I value integrity in politics and I am sure that it is in the carrying integrity just a little too far. (Renewed laughter.)

Government not to interfere with ILEA

There was no possibility of government interference in the objectives of the new Inner London Education Authority but simply a power to define on what objectives ILEA was required to consult the inner London boroughs, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, assured the Commons late on Monday.

He was speaking at the end of the first day of the second reading debate on the Local Government Bill which abolishes the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan county councils.

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education (Durham North, Lab), said the Secretary of State had misled Londoners, the House and the country. He must explain why he had broken his promise that the Government would not interfere in ILEA's objectives.

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education (Durham North, Lab), said the Secretary of State had misled Londoners, the House and the country. He must explain why he had broken his promise that the Government would not interfere in ILEA's objectives.

He said that the Opposition would drop altogether the suggestion that there was an intent to interfere with the objectives of the new ILEA.

ILEA was extravagant. It was spending per pupil 20 per cent more than Manchester, 30 per cent more than Newcastle, 54 per cent more than Bradford and 59 per cent more than Birmingham. Those cities had much the same population as ILEA. There was plenty of scope for ILEA to economize.

The Opposition seemed to think that this was also a centralizing Bill. It was an absurd fabrication and a complete distortion of truth. This was a decentralizing and democratic Bill.

To talk of some power being retained by the Government to interfere in ILEA's objectives was

rejected suggestion categorically, but it was important to remember that landscape of high value did not exist only within the national park.

The Secretary of State approved the sincerity of the Dartmoor Preservation Association and acknowledged their deeply held view that this road should not go through any part of the national park but the city did not have to carry responsibility for where else the road might go.

The chosen route of the bypass was supported by the local parish councils and the district council of the area concerned. They represented the people who lived there and who had achieved the objective of saving the matter debated on the floor of the House before it went before the select committee, he would withdraw his motion.

On behalf of the Government he

Abuse of benefits for mortgages

The Government is considering measures designed to stop abuse of mortgage interest repayments by striking miners Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said during question time in the House of Lords.

Lord Glenarthur: A striker is not entitled to supplementary benefit for his own needs but he may receive benefit for his dependants and this will include, where appropriate, an amount for mortgage interest but not capital repayments.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter: Many will resent being taxed in order to enable a person who is deliberately abstaining from work to continue to purchase his house. If that stands in sharp contrast with the fact that man who is working does not get such assistance.

Lord Glenarthur: I am aware there has been some publicity about some strikers not paying the mortgage and using the money for other purposes. We are carefully considering whether steps should be taken to prevent this.

Lord Stoddart of Swinton (Lab): Has any evidence that funds for mortgage interest repayments are being used for other purposes or is he relying on hearsay evidence?

Lord Glenarthur: There certainly is evidence of various sorts that this sort of thing is going on. A rough estimate suggests 9,000 striking miners will be getting such payments with an average amount of £15 and some is going the wrong way.

Lord Harnum-Nicholls (C): The people who do this have admitted it on television in full view of millions of viewers. There is no doubt about it.

Lord Glenarthur: He is right. There can be no better evidence than that.

Parliament today

Comments (2.30) Debate on Government's intention to sign draft agreement on future of Hong Kong. Lords (2.30) Debate on the Civil Service.

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH YES OR NO

Would you give insulin to a diabetic child?	
Would you retain Society's hard won control over polio, diphtheria, TB and smallpox?	
Would you agree we must have medicines and vaccines which have been tested for safety?	
Would you agree we need to alleviate and control, for example, cancer, arthritis and multiple sclerosis?	
Would you agree we have to safeguard the future health of the country's population?	

Animal experimentation has made an essential contribution to the control and eradication of serious diseases. This work must continue.

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Biffen: Strike might end in farce

COAL DISPUTE

The miners' strike and the financing of it as a result of the fact that it might end in farce. Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons, said when answering questions for the Prime Minister who is attending the Dublin summit.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Litchborough and Saddleworth, C) had asked: Has he heard the strong report that NUM money is being held by left wing trade union headquarters in London and, daily, comes can be seen leaving those headquarters with suitcases stuffed with bank notes and heading for the Sheffield headquarters of the miners' union?

What is the Government and the Treasury doing to do to investigate the taxation implications of this exercise and the title to that money?

Mr Biffen said he had no knowledge of the points.

Mr Biffen: I do not for one moment endorse his premise that the Government is responsible for this long dispute.

Bonanza for some

Two million people had had a pre-Christmas bonanza on British Telecom shares but 17 million people had each lost about £100 worth of assets, said David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, said in the Commons.

He asked Mr John Biffen, leader of the House, to confirm his arithmetic and added: Is this not the equivalent of the Government playing bingo with other people's money?

movement to choose between the law and their membership? Is that not hypocritical coming from a man who has both defied the law and his own nation's role book?

Mr Biffen: It is quite clear today that the law is indivisible? No trade union leader nor any individual can choose which part of the law he agrees with and which part he chooses to disregard.

Mr Biffen: I am happy to confirm his point. It would be much better if the leadership of the NUM returned to the law and also to the negotiating table.

Mr Peter Pike (Burnley, Lab): Accepting the Government's responsibility for the long, on-going coal dispute, will the Government accept responsibility for the additional cost to the Central Electricity Generating Board of generating electricity from all the power lost in the dispute and ensure that burden is not passed on to either industrial or domestic consumers?

Mr Biffen: I do not for one moment endorse his premise that the Government is responsible for this long dispute.

EEC food surplus: 3

British lead the field for efficiency

In the final article of this series, JOHN YOUNG, Agriculture Correspondent, examines British and EEC food surpluses in an international context, and difficulties raised by the accession of Spain and Portugal.

The widely held British view of the EEC, and the Common Agricultural Policy in particular, is that it is a device for making British taxpayers to support peasant farmers. But expenditure is considerably less outrageous than portrayed and is open to other interpretations.

The Community's statistics reveal the efficiency of the British farming industry. It has nearly 20 per cent of the farmed area in the EEC but 5 per cent of the holdings and just over 7 per cent of the workforce on the land.

Roughly the same area of farmland in Italy is divided into nearly half the holdings in the Community, and accounts for nearly a third of farm employment. Greece has nearly twice as many people working half as much farmland as in Britain.

But that shows that farmers of northern Europe have reaped the lion's share of the benefits. Grain, dairy produce and meat have received far greater support than the balance is gradually changing, wine fruit and vegetables.

Much more important, despite all the fine words about restructuring the peasant economies of southern Europe, 96 per cent of farm expenditure goes on market support, in the form of intervention and export subsidies.

A rigidly 4 per cent is given over to the modernization of unviable smallholdings in Greece, the Alps, Ireland and the Mezzogiorno.

livestock farmers will face ruin. British fruit and vegetable growers have good reason to fear enlargement. Tomatoes grown in expensively-heated glasshouses in Sussex and Hampshire can hardly compete with those produced in Canary Islands sunshine.

The view in Brussels, for which the Government can take some credit, is that expenditure must be contained and, that, while there are strong strategic, balance of payments and social reasons for supporting domestic agriculture, Europe has a surplus of productive land. More attention should be paid to alternative uses.

Ask people in Brussels why they emphasize the need for structural reform, and the answer is that, only when farming has become efficient in its own right, can support be progressively withdrawn and the market allowed to take command.

Computer claims for pensioners

A microcomputer is unearthing some of the £100 million that pensioners fail to claim in social security benefits, the Greater London Council said yesterday. (Our Local Government Correspondent writes.)

A pilot scheme in north London showed that up to £20 a week was not claimed.

[illegible]

Hard line in Brussels: softer talk in Moscow

Nato to spend billions on boosting capability of fighting a prolonged war

From Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, Brussels

Nato defence ministers agreed yesterday a multi-billion pound increase in its spending on ammunition, airfields and other facilities to improve its ability to fight a prolonged war. A meeting of Nato's Defence Planning Committee in Brussels adopted a programme to spend \$7.8 billion (£6.6 billion) over a six-year period on modernizing communication systems, pipelines, airfields and other installations.

In addition ministers agreed that they would make a determined effort to build up stocks of ammunition and other war-fighting supplies. The object is to get as close as possible to the target of holding 30 days of war-fighting stocks. That was first set 30 years ago, but never yet achieved.

Mr Richard Perle, a US Assistant Secretary for Defence, said that of 16 meetings of Nato defence ministers which he had attended, yesterday's was one of the most satisfying and successful. The infrastructure spending programme was more than twice as large as that for the previous six years.

The ministers' decision has to be seen largely as a direct response to American criticisms that European members were not contributing sufficiently to Nato.

In particular, there is concern in Europe at the actions of Senator Sam Nunn, who last

● EAST BERLIN: The War-

saw Pact too yesterday, called for serious negotiations with the West to reduce nuclear arms, but said such talks should have clearly defined goals (Reuter reports).

A communiqué issued by the official ADN news agency after a meeting of the seven Warsaw Pact foreign ministers in East Berlin said the "chance of a change for the better in the international situation now exists".

It added: "What is needed is a change to a policy of realism and businesslike co-operation in solving problems facing the nations of Europe... negotiations which pursue positive results with a sense of high responsibility."

"The Warsaw Pact believes that from the very beginning there should be a clear definition of the goals and talks should cover the full complex of arms issues, including medium-range rockets now based in Europe."

They repeated the Warsaw Pact countries do not seek superiority but at the same time, they will not allow themselves to fall into a situation of inferiority," the communiqué said.

"The pact ministers propose a quantitative and qualitative freeze in nuclear arms. They expect an answer from the Nato countries to this proposal."

European defence ministers, who met earlier in the day under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Heseltine, the British Secretary of State for Defence, pointed out that next year the European nations in Nato would bring into service 280 combat aircraft and 740 main battle tanks and well over 600 other armoured vehicles, and 140 pieces of artillery.

Mr Heseltine said the European contribution to the alliance was "very very substantial". Nevertheless, he thought there were things which should be done in Europe which should have been done already. Senator Nunn had played a role in focusing attention on those matters.

One object of the increased spending will be to improve Europe's facilities for receiving reinforcements of US ground and air forces in the event of a European war. That will include the construction of several hundred aircraft hangars specially "hardened" to resist bomb attacks.

Chernenko's message to Reagan

Moscow (Reuter/AP) - President Konstantin Chernenko of the Soviet Union told the US industrialist, Mr Armand Hammer yesterday that he would agree to an early summit with President Reagan provided the US met certain conditions.

The 86-year-old oil tycoon, who maintains close contacts with Soviet leaders, told a news conference that he sought Mr Chernenko's views on a summit at a meeting in the Kremlin. He also quoted Mr Chernenko as saying it was time to "roll up one's sleeves and get down to business" on arms control.

Mr Chernenko invited Mr Hammer to Moscow to discuss US-Soviet relations at a time of renewed dialogue between the superpowers.

Mr Hammer said he asked the Soviet President if he would agree to an early summit if Mr Reagan accepted a Soviet plan for a treaty banning first use of nuclear weapons and if a meeting in January between the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko was a success. "His answer was yes", Mr Hammer said.

Mr Hammer said the US should match the Soviet Union's pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. "We will all be able to sleep easy."

The industrialist emphasized that he had no mandate from Washington and was representing only his own views.

Mr Reagan has offered to meet President Chernenko but the Soviet leader said last month the time was not right. Moscow has urged Washington to agree to the nuclear treaty as



Mr Hammer in Moscow: In close contact.

a step towards mutual trust, but the US and its allies have not accepted the proposal.

Mr Hammer, who first held talks in the Kremlin 63 years ago when he met Lenin, made public a statement given to him by President Chernenko, repeating the Soviet view that it was up to Mr Reagan to put his conciliatory language into action.

"Once we agree, we strictly observe the commitments we take upon ourselves and we would like to see that the United States would also be a reliable partner..." Mr Chernenko said.

"It was proceeding from this premise that we suggested to President Reagan that our two countries should start new negotiations on the entire complex of questions of nuclear and space armaments."

"The President has agreed, but... the future will show whether the US, contrary to its previous actions, would take a realistic position..."

UN makes an African aid breakthrough

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

A declaration drawing up a blueprint of change for Africa has been adopted by the United Nations in a culmination of what Britain one of the continent's leading aid builders, has described as the most important debate during the present session of the General Assembly.

The British representatives, Sir John Thomson, said that the document, which outlines guidelines for large emergency relief aid and longer term remedies, would become a milestone in African relations with the Western world and the UN's ability to depart from abstract platitudes towards a more practical approach.

The consensus reached in the assembly confirmed the growing political isolation of the Soviet Union in relation to Africa. Despite Moscow's proddings that colonialism should be blamed for the continent's tragedy the Soviet Union was

left out of the negotiating process on the text.

The document recognizes that African countries bear the primary responsibility for addressing not only the present crisis but also for undertaking the painful adjustments needed to correct past failures and setbacks.

It says that in order to alleviate the economic crisis, Africans must move away from the more centralized economic models to systems which lean more towards acceptance of the basic tenets of Western capitalism.

It sets as a goal the early attainment of national and collective self reliance in food production and emphasizes the importance of agricultural incentives for farmers, improvement of storage and transport, a better balance between agricultural export commodities and food production and agricultural diversification.

Kabul palace hit in rebel rocket attack

Islamabad (Reuter) - Rockets fired by Afghan rebels hit the presidential palace compound in the heart of Kabul, but another attack missed the capital's Intercontinental Hotel, Western diplomats said here yesterday.

One rocket landed on or around the walled palace on November 26, and witnesses said they heard cries and saw two ambulances arriving.

Several more rockets were fired at the Intercontinental Hotel, where 80 delegates from 41 countries were attending an Afro-Asian Peace and Solidarity Organization conference, but they missed the target.

The diplomats said two more rockets landed in an Afghan Army compound near the West German cultural centre.

Muslim guerrillas, armed with what rebel sources say are 107mm Chinese-made rockets, have been making surprise attacks on Kabul targets since late summer.

Top journalist released in Nigeria

By Kenneth Mackenzie

The editor of a leading Nigerian newspaper, *The National Concord*, has been released after being detained for 14 days for questioning about an article that criticized the Minister of Information.

An official statement said that the editor, Mr Duro Onabule, had been a "guest" at the headquarters of the Nigerian Security Organization in Lagos. Mr Onabule had suggested that the Minister, Group Captain Emetka Omeruah, was obsessed with an anti-press prejudice.

Colonel linked to priest's murder

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A senior officer, Colonel Adam Pietruszka, will be accused of instigating the crime during talks held with the other policemen.

Mr Urban said the authorities would continue to investigate links between the alleged murderer and other sympathizers who may have countenanced the crime - but said evidence would probably not be ready before the beginning of the trial.

He denied that a car crash which killed two high-ranking police investigators last Friday was anything more than an "ordinary accident". The investigators, who included a colonel

Marcos back on TV after 3-week break

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Manila (AFP) - President Marcos was shown yesterday on government television for the first time since his disappearance three weeks ago from public view.

Mr Marcos appeared dressed in a shirt and dark trousers, walking slowly across a large room.

Meanwhile, a military court yesterday sentenced to death three men and a woman for being involved in an alleged plot to assassinate President Marcos and members of his Cabinet five years ago.



In the news: Le Monde journalists reading their paper before they reject the editor's recovery plan.

Editor of Le Monde calls it a day

From Diana Geddes, Paris

M André Laurens resigned as editor-in-chief of *Le Monde* yesterday after journalists rejected the basis of his plan for the economic recovery of the troubled newspaper.

M Laurens, who celebrates his 50th birthday on Friday, was elected as a compromise candidate by an overwhelming majority of the editorial staff in May 1982. His appointment came after two years of bitter in-fighting and deep divisions

caused by the search for a suitable successor to M Jacques Fauvet.

He is only the third editor since the foundation of the paper 40 years ago by M Hubert Beuve-Méry. He said he intended to remain in the post until December 20, when meeting of shareholders of *Le Monde* will be convened to choose his successor.

Le Monde is a private company, 40 per cent of the

shares are owned by the journalists, 5 per cent by the management, 5 per cent by other employees, 10 per cent by the editor-in-chief and 40 per cent by 15 outside private individuals, including the paper's once highly successful, but now making substantial losses over the past three years. They are expected to exceed 80 million francs (£7 million) by the end of this year.

In October, M Laurens put forward his plan for the economic recovery of the paper, which included the sale of its offices near the Opéra.

Last week, non-journalist staff went on strike for two days in protest against proposals to cut their salaries by an average of 14 per cent.

On Monday night, the 185 journalists voted to reject the proposal to sell *Le Monde* offices, and criticized the rest of M Laurens's plan.

Jordanian shot dead in Bucharest

Vienna (Reuter) - A senior Jordanian diplomat was killed in central Bucharest yesterday by a gunman, who was immediately arrested, his embassy said.

The gunman shot Mr Azmi Al-Mufti, Jordan's second-ranking diplomat in Romania, several times with a pistol as the diplomat left the hotel where he had been living for the past three months, witnesses reported.

In Amman, the Jordanian Prime Minister, Mr Ahmed Obeidat, said Mr Al-Mufti was taking his child to school when he was killed by "a wicked hand".

Romanian police seized the gunman whose identity and nationality were not immediately known.

A Jordanian Embassy spokesman, reached by telephone from Belgrade, could offer no possible motive for the attack.

The assassination was unusual for Romania where the orthodox Communist authorities impose the closest watch on foreigners.

The Hotel Bucuresti, where Mr Al-Mufti was staying, is frequented by visiting foreign businessmen and diplomats.

Although the motive behind the killing was not clear, there has been a string of attacks abroad on Jordanian embassy employees in the past two years.

Pretoria relents on visa for Jackson

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Rev Jesse Jackson, the black civil rights leader and outspoken opponent of apartheid, has been given a visa to visit South Africa. A date for his visit has yet to be fixed but it is expected to take place early in the new year.

It will be Mr Jackson's second visit to South Africa. He spent 17 days in the Republic in 1979. He submitted an application earlier this year when he was seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, but it was rejected.

There is speculation that Mr Jackson may use his visit to seek the release of 13 black labour leaders detained last month. In January he negotiated the release of an American

Hijackers kill man then free 19

Nicosia (AP) - Hijackers released 19 women and children after one passenger was fatally shot and another wounded on board a hijacked Kuwait airliner at Tehran airport yesterday, according to the official Iranian news agency.

Iran did not reveal whether the hijackers had made any demands, apart from asking for the refueling of the plane soon after it had landed. Those freed were five women and 14 children, most of them Pakistani.

They were released after negotiations at 5.40pm, local time. Twelve hours after the Kuwait Airlines flight with 161 people on board was forced to land at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport.

Earlier, Iran said one passenger was killed and another was wounded when shooting broke out inside the plane as it was parked on a subsidiary airport runway.

"Minutes after the shooting was heard from inside the plane, the main door was opened and the half-dead body of one of the passengers who had been seriously wounded was thrown out," Iran said.

The wounded man was taken to an emergency medical centre but was dead on arrival, it added. The identities of the dead and wounded passengers were not announced.

The aircraft had taken off from Kuwait on Monday night with 150 passengers and 11 crew members on a flight to Karachi via Dubai, Iran said.

Karachi airport officials said yesterday that 127 Pakistani nationals and 28 foreign nationals were on the liner. They did not give a further breakdown by nationality.

The released passengers were taken to the airport terminal building.

Greek plot claim scorned

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The office of Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek President, yesterday rejected as "ridiculous and suspicious" allegations in an article by Professor Nicos Devletoglu in *The Times* yesterday.

Professor Devletoglu, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Athens until 1975 and a co-founder of the National Union Party, claimed that the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 had been engineered at a secret meeting between Mr Karamanlis, then in exile in Paris, and Mr Bulent

Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, to topple the Greek military dictatorship.

The statement from the President's office "not only denies these assertions, but rejects that Mr Karamanlis ever met Mr Ecevit before the Turkish invasion of Cyprus."

Sources close to the Greek President are surprised at such allegations just as the Cyprus question appears to be entering a delicate phase. President Kyprianou, of Cyprus, is to visit Athens for discussions with President Karamanlis.



Lookalike: This drawing of the Soviet prototype space shuttle and its carrier, the Bison bomber, strongly resembles its US predecessor. It appeared in *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine, which says landing tests will begin soon.

Tamils try to trade hostages for rebels

Colombo (Reuter) - A Tamil separatist group is holding nine hostages to back its demands that the Sri Lanka Government should release three guerrillas and pay a ransom of almost \$400,000 (£333,000), the National Security Minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said yesterday.

He said a note to that effect was given to a government agent in Jaffna by the Tamil Eelam Liberation Army, which he described as Marxist.

The Government thought the hostages were captured when guerrillas attacked a train on Monday, and that most of them were Sinhalese, he added.

A second note said the ransom money should be handed to Mr Murguesu Sivasingham, president of the Tamil United Liberation Front and its secretary general, Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam. But the Liberation Front later dissociated itself from the ransom note.

The Lord they God walketh in the midst of thy camp to deliver thee... therefore shall thy camp be holy: that He sees no unseemly thing in thee and turn away from thee" (Deuteronomy 23:14).

The rabbi said women's military service was unseemly and the Almighty had turned away, withdrawing his protection.

● ENTRY CHECK: Ethiopian Jews emigrating to Israel will be examined to see if they have been properly circumcised under ritual Jewish law, a spokesman for the Israeli Rabbinate said (Reuter reports).

A special committee of Ethiopian immigrants and rabbis will send newcomers to a ritual circumcision, who will determine whether a repeat operation is necessary.

Ethiopian Jews are reputed to be descended from notables who accompanied Menelik, son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, when he returned to Africa from Jerusalem. In recent years many have gone to live in Israel.

A spokesman for the Ethiopian Jews was quoted in the *Jerusalem Post* as saying they regarded the move as humiliating.

Estate seized

Granada (Reuter) - Almost 1,000 Spanish small farmers staged a symbolic takeover of a sprawling estate here belonging to the Duke of Wellington. "Estates such as this should be expropriated and handed over to the workers," a spokesman said.

Tourists killed

Nairobi (AP) - Nine people, including six American tourists, were killed when a van in which they were travelling to a game park collided with a lorry just south-east of here. Names were not released.

Sheep sharing

Sheep bred in the Yorkshire dales have been put on show at a leading Tokyo department store and are boosting sales of British wool. Mostly Wensleydale and Swaledale, they are living happily on the store's roof and have become favourites on children's television shows.

Beaten to death

Rio de Janeiro (Reuter) - About 500 Brazilians dragged five convicted criminals from a police van at Itapira, north of here, and beat them to death with clubs and stones. They had been convicted of killing a policeman during an armed robbery.

Free on bail

Geneva (Reuter) - Elvio Lombardi, an Italian extradited from Uruguay and charged in a Swiss court with helping the Italian masonic leader Licio Gelli, to escape from a Geneva jail, has been released on bail of about £16,500.

Air chief dies

Moscow (AP) - Marshal Pavel Kutakhov, aged 70, head of the Soviet Air Force since 1969, died on Monday after an unspecified "severe and prolonged illness," Tass said yesterday.

Judges to go

The Hague (Reuter) - Iran will replace in January two of its judges who assaulted a fellow Swedish judge at a tribunal settling claims between Iran and the United States.

TV punch-up

Hilversum (AP) - A talk show on Dutch television was abruptly taken off the air after a brawl broke out between opponents and supporters of the present military regime in the former Dutch colony of Surinam. Three people were hurt in the punch-up.

Sentenced to a living death

Each year tens of millions of animals are killed for their fur. Some are trapped and suffer a slow, painful death. Others are bred just to be slaughtered.

The RSPCA is campaigning now against the fur trade. By pressuring the fur, we can help reduce demand for fur, ending the cruel action that they are a status symbol.

The Society works continually to prevent cruelty of all kinds to all animals, and is financed entirely by voluntary contributions. Let's end this senseless killing. Please help the RSPCA by making a donation now. Help the RSPCA put cruelty out of fashion.



All for the sake of a fur coat.

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Ferraro gets reprimand over family finances

Washington - The House Ethics Committee decided that Ma Geraldine Ferraro, the defeated Democratic vice-presidential candidate, violated the Ethics in Government Act at least 10 times by failing to disclose fully her personal and family finances (Nicholas Ashford writes).

But it is not recommending any disciplinary action against her and the decision is seen as a technical reprimand. Ms Ferraro, a three-term Congresswoman, will cease to be a member of the House when Congress convenes on January 3.

'Tip' O'Neill re-elected

Washington - Congressional Democrats elected Mr Thomas "Tip" O'Neill of Massachusetts as House Speaker for a fifth and final term. Mr O'Neill, who will be 72 next weekend, plans to retire in two years (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Mr Robert Michel of Illinois was again chosen by House Republicans as their leader.

On Monday night, the 185 journalists voted to reject the proposal to sell *Le Monde* offices, and criticized the rest of M Laurens's plan.

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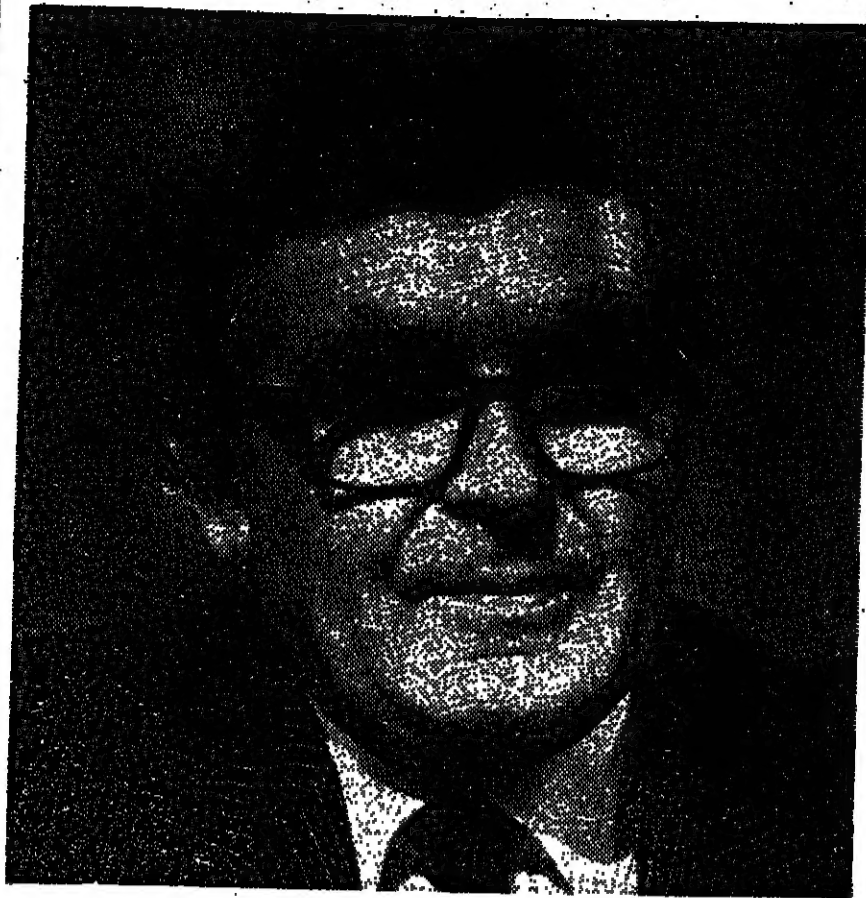


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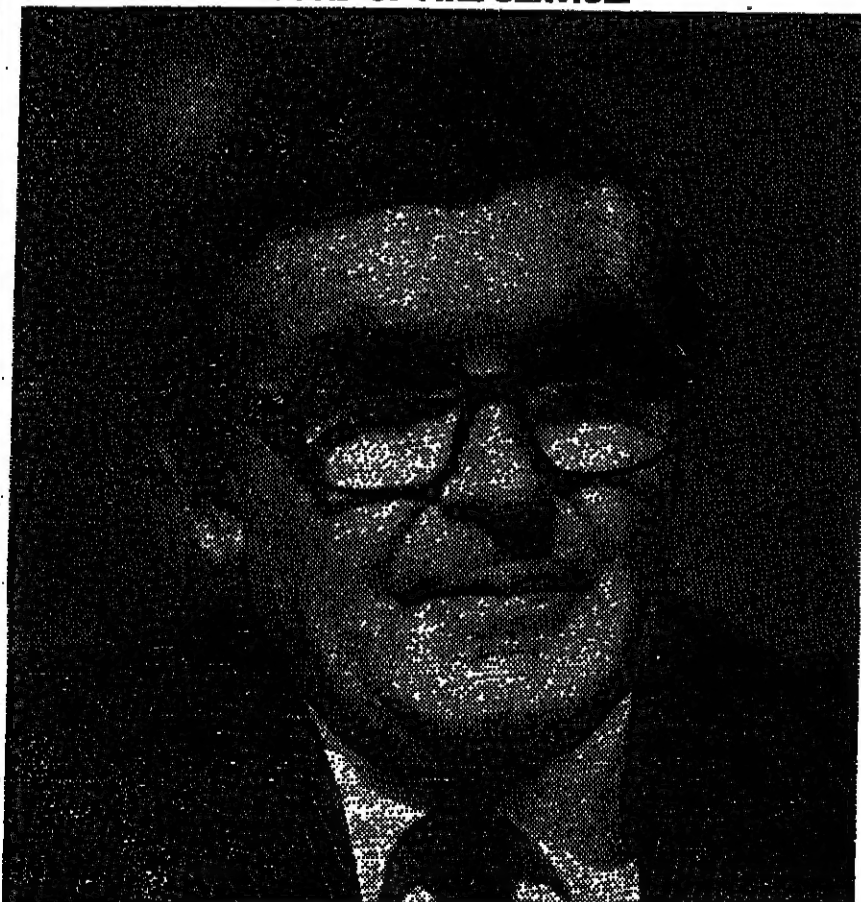
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HEAD OF WASTE DISPOSAL.



HEAD OF GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY GROUPS.



HEAD OF FLOODING AND LAND DRAINAGE.

In the Abolition Bill, Patrick Jenkin states quite clearly who he's appointing to run London if the GLC goes.

Himself.

It gives him direct control over all the Whitehall committees and joint boards which would take over the majority of the GLC's functions.

A free hand to do whatever he wants to do whether anyone else likes it or not.

And that's not all. It also gives him the power to change the

details of the Bill itself after it's been approved by Parliament.

It's an extraordinary precedent.

One which not only denies all Londoners their say, but also denies Parliament its rightful role in the process by which Government policies are implemented.

Right from the start, the Government has made it clear it isn't going to let the people of London decide how London's run.

Now it seems it isn't going to let the Houses of Parliament decide either.

SAY NO TO NO SAY.

Grenadian voters emerge from shadow of Gairy after 30 years

From Christopher Thomas
St George's, Grenada

The tiny Caribbean island of Grenada began life as a non-colonial democracy yesterday. Sir Eric Gairy, the right-wing autocrat who has cast his shadow over Grenadian politics for 30 years, was roundly rejected.

The United States, most of the Caribbean, and Britain are delighted at the victory of the middle-of-the-road New National Party, formed only four months ago as a frail coalition of three political groups. Only in recent weeks has it looked like a cohesive, serious challenger to Sir Eric's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP).

The election was peaceful. The pro-Cuban Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement lost its deposit in nearly all the 13 constituencies it contested. The election result was also a rejection of the personality cult of Sir Eric, aged 62, who shut himself away in a rented house in St George's for the duration of the campaign. He has given no recent interviews.

It must have been especially welcome to him to have lost to Sir Herbert Blaize, leader of the new National Party, a former political ally who struck out with his own Grenada National Party in the September 1957 general election. He lost then to Sir Eric, and several times subsequently.

Six years earlier they had been banished together by the Governor-General to the dependency island of Carriacou, 30 miles north of Grenada, as a punishment for fomenting a general strike.

Both began their working lives in the cheerless manner of so many of their generation, toiling long hours in the oilfields of the Dutch island of Aruba, off the Venezuelan coast. While in his twenties Mr Blaize was paralysed in a cycling accident. He walked

Election Results for 15-Seat House of Representatives

New National Party	14
Grenada United Labour Party	1
Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement	0
Christian Democratic Labour Party	0
Grenada Federated Labour Party	0
Independents	0

Last Election, Dec 7, 1976

Grenada United Labour Party	9
People's Alliance	6
Independents	0

(The People's Alliance was a coalition of Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement and the Christian Democratic Labour Party.)

again, but always stiffly. He now appears frail with arthritis. Sir Eric did not contest a seat in Monday's general election, doubtless for fear of spoiling his boast that he has never personally lost a popular vote. Had GULP done well he doubtless would have arranged a safe by-election for himself.

Mr Blaize is a native of sleepy Carriacou, an insurance salesman and later a solicitor. He was chief minister in the 1960s, becoming the first Prime Minister in March 1967. Sir Eric defeated him in August of the same year. He has consistently been regarded as a representative of the middle classes.

The other principal players in the new Government of Grenada are: Mr Francis Alexis, a deputy law school dean in Barbados who returned after the US-led invasion. He was abroad for 10 years. He headed the Grenada Democratic Movement, a party of exiles formed with US backing to oppose the Marxist Government of Maurice Bishop.

Mr George Brizan, aged 41, a teacher of history and economics in Grenadian schools. He was head of the New Democratic Party which, together with the parties formerly headed by Mr Blaize and Mr Alexis, make up the new governing party of Grenada.

Old-country ties linger amid alien cultures

In the first of three articles on Australia as Mr Bob Hawke begins his second term of office, Alan Hamilton looks at the country's ties with Britain and changing attitudes to the Crown.

An outsider observing the Australian general election campaign could well have been forgiven for thinking that Mr Bob Hawke, with his presidential style and cult of personality, was campaigning to be returned as head of state.

He is, of course, merely the Prime Minister, and he knows well enough that, like his Labour predecessor, Mr Gough Whitlam, he could be removed from office by a higher authority. That higher authority, however, maintains a distinctly low profile in present-day Australia.

There is no longer any portrait of the Queen on banknotes or stamps (although her profile still graces the Prime Minister, and he knows well enough that, like his Labour predecessor, Mr Gough Whitlam, he could be removed from office by a higher authority. That higher authority, however, maintains a distinctly low profile in present-day Australia.

There have been suggestions that the Union Jack in the corner of the national flag be replaced with a device of



Sir John Bjelke-Petersen, Monarchist standard bearer.

similar shape and design, but in Australia's national colours of green and gold. And there are plenty of Australians willing to predict an end to the monarchical tie within 10 or 20 years.

Logically there is no good reason why a nation of 15 million proud, prosperous, and seemingly self-confident people on the other side of the world, with a strong national identity of their own, should retain allegiance to the British monarch, 214 years after a Whitty sea captain landed in Botany

Bay and claimed it for King George III.

The old preferential trade links were largely destroyed when Britain joined Europe, and Australian farmers now complain that EEC surplus dumping is ruining their traditional markets and livelihoods.

The country's primary defence treaty is with the United States through ANZUS, and the once-endless caravan of young Aussies taking the SUE Route by airbus for a couple of years' work in the old country has dried to a trickle as work permits have become harder to obtain.

A change of immigration policy, for which Mr Hawke's Government has been unfairly accused of being anti-British, means that a majority in the past two years have been from parts other than Britain.

But the ties remain. Despite an influx of southern Europeans in the 1960s and 1970s, and a wave of Asians in the 1980s, it will be many years before Australians with Anglo-Saxon and Celtic stock are squeezed into a minority.

The chief monarchist standard bearer is the boldly eccentric National Party Premier of Queensland, Sir John Bjelke-Petersen, not even a Pom himself. Part of his election campaign was to take advertisements in the newspapers inviting readers to write to him deploring the loss of the Queen's person on the banknotes - and in the national anthem.

A senior official of the more moderate Liberal Party, which is in an enforced coalition with the National Party, explained it thus: "We are essentially a white, Christian, Western democratic nation with a Westminster-style Parliament. Look at our neighbours: Indonesia, Philippines, even China. All very alien cultures indeed. We sometimes can feel marooned."

Defence was barely mentioned as an election issue, as there are no votes in defence in peacetime. But there is some concern in Australia both about the weakness of the ANZUS Treaty, which gives no firm guarantee that the US will rush to Australia's aid in time of need, and about present events to the north.

There is continued instability in East Timor, only 200

miles north of Darwin, and cross-border insurgency from Irian Jaya, the Indonesian island of New Guinea, into independent Papua New Guinea. A Communist government in Jakarta would be seen in Canberra as a major threat.

It is barely conceivable that Britain would mount a Falklands-style expedition in Australia's hour of need, but the connection with the Crown gives the Australians some extra feeling of identity in a region where they perceive themselves surrounded by people who are not their own kith and kin. They may not be as self-confident as they like to make out.

One of Mr Hawke's campaign staff put it much more simply. "Charles and Diana were a terrific success when they came here. And do you know why? The most popular television programmes have been *Dallas*, *Dynasty* and *Coronation Street*. Aussies are absolute suckers for a good soap opera, and that's what the Royal Family is. The best soap opera on earth."

Tomorrow: Crime

The Indian chemical tragedy

Fatal to insects rats and man

New York (NYT) - The substance that escaped from a storage tank at Bhopal, India, with severe loss of life is widely used in preparing insecticides, such as Union Carbide's Sevin. It is known as methyl isocyanate, and even in small amounts it produces a voluminous discharge from the eyes and is extremely irritating to the skin and internal organs.

Heavy exposure can apparently cause enough fluid accumulation in the lungs to cause drowning. Its effects differ basically from those of cyanide compounds which attack the nervous system, causing paralysis of the respiratory muscles.

American occupational safety rules specify that in one eight-hour day workers must not be exposed to more than 0.02 part of methyl isocyanate per million parts of air. This amounts to 0.05 milligrams per cubic metre.

At the New York offices of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Mr Nick Fannick, an industrial hygienist, said half the rats exposed to 5 part per million for four hours died. Even light exposures have a long-lasting effect on humans, causing an allergic or asthmatic reaction to the slightest further exposure.

No skin exposure is permitted in US plants. No information was available on the stringency of similar regulations in India.

Disasters of the past

New York (AP) - The Bhopal leak of poison gas is one of the worst industrial accidents in history. Here are some other serious industrial and environmental accidents:

● Sept. 1921, an explosion at the BASF chemical plant at Oppau, in West Germany, killed 561.

● April, 1942, a coal dust explosion at the Henkel Colliery in China killed 1,572.

● April, 1947, 561 died when a ship carrying fertilizer exploded at Texas City, Texas.

● Aug. 1956, 1,100 died when

dynamite trucks exploded in Cali, Colombia.

● Dec. 1975, an explosion in a mine at Chasnara, India, killed 431.

● In 1979, an estimated 300 died from anthrax after an accident at a biological and chemical warfare plant at Novosibirsk in the Soviet Union.

● Last month at least 452 were killed when 80,000 barrels of natural gas exploded at a state-owned Pemex facility in Mexico.

US nuns demand end to arms for El Salvador

San Salvador (AFP) - Thirty-four US and Canadian nuns demanded an end to American military aid to El Salvador in a demonstration in front of the US embassy here. The nuns of the Maryknoll and Ursuline orders were friends of three nuns and a lay-woman missionary who were raped and murdered by Salvadoran soldiers on December 2, 1981.

Meanwhile, the left-wing guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation

Front (FMLN) have launched a campaign to sabotage El Salvador's main exports, immediately after the second meeting between guerrilla leaders and government officials last Friday. The insurgents will attack lorries loaded with coffee, cotton or sugar cane, the guerrillas' radio announced.

● Rebel Ambush: Guerrillas killed at least 42 soldiers when they attacked a hamlet 30 miles south-east of the capital, senior military sources said yesterday.



Leaders' respects: Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister (left) and the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr Arjun Singh, with doctors in Bhopal yesterday.

Confident Lee looks to all 79 seats

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

The question hanging over the Singapore general election on December 22 is not who will win but rather what kind of opposition will remain afterwards.

The People's Action Party (PAP) of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, is confident of winning all 79 seats in a newly-enlarged Parliament, including the Anson constituency held by Singapore's sole opposition MP and Mr Lee's arch political foe, Mr "Ben" Jeyaretnam.

Officially dissolving the present 75-seat Parliament yesterday, President Devan Nair announced that nominations would close on December 12.

It has become traditional for the island's elections to be intervals of four years instead of the constitutional term of five years, and it is a sign of the PAP's assurance that highly controversial policy proposals have been floated in an election year. Mr Lee's attempts at social engineering, for example, with graduates being encouraged to

breed and the lower orders being offered incentives to stop, have caused some alienation.

Another controversial feature has been the introduction of Mr Lee's son as a PAP candidate. Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, former Deputy Commander of the Defence Forces, has an academic record comparable to his father's (both double firsts at Cambridge), but there have been the inevitable suggestions that Lee Senior is attempting to forge a political dynasty.

In the four elections since 1968 opposition groups such as Mr Jeyaretnam's Workers' Party have polled between 16 per cent and 30 per cent of the total vote, but have failed to win a single seat under the first-past-the-post system.

Mr Jeyaretnam broke the mould at a by-election for the lower-income Anson constituency in 1981 and his presence has injected liveliness into political life. Although his parliamentary performance is

said to have been lacklustre he is forthright in criticizing the PAP, claiming that it has destroyed all opponents, subverted the trade union movement and taken control of the press.

Countering claims that he is intolerant of opposition of any kind, Mr Lee encouraged a constitutional amendment in mid-year under which the three Opposition members who receive the most votes are assured of parliamentary seats, though their voting rights will be restricted.

The six opposition parties are expected to field about 80 candidates, including four of the 100,000 Singaporeans whose leadership was detained without trial in the 1960s crackdown on communists and trade unionists. At the time of the last election about 30 political detainees were being held under the Internal Security Act. Now there is just one.

Bonn pays £95m to free E Germans

From Our Correspondent Bonn

Bonn has spent nearly £95 million so far this year on buying freedom in the West for thousands of East Germans, a West German newspaper said yesterday.

The conservative daily, *Die Welt*, said the East Germans included 2,115 political prisoners bought out between January and the end of November. This was a record annual figure since Bonn began paying for the release of such prisoners in 1963, the newspaper added.

Die Welt said Bonn expected that a total of 2,200 political prisoners would have been bought out by the end of this year. However, the Bonn Ministry for Inner German Relations declined to comment on the report.

The other East Germans for whom East Berlin had been paid handsomely were people who had been granted exit visas to travel to West Germany, according to the paper. A total of 38,000 East Germans had either been allowed to resettle in West Germany, had escaped or been bought out by Bonn to the end of November.

Rival Basque leaders aim for peace accord

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Talks began yesterday between the Basque regional government and the Basque Socialists, aimed at reaching a long-term agreement to tackle the region's grave problems.

The Basque country threatens to become ungovernable as the autonomous government that was elected last February, lacks a majority in Parliament.

Terrorism by ETA, the Basque separatist organization is answered by extreme right-wing "death squads" and the restructuring of local shipyards brings almost daily clashes between the workers and the police.

Senior Carlos Garaikoetxea, the Basque Nationalist Chief Minister yesterday met Señor Jose Benegas, the Basque Socialist and Opposition leader in Vitoria, to discuss Benegas's offer of a three-year parliamentary agreement. The agreement was approved in Madrid with Señor Felipe Gonzalez, Spain's Prime Minister.

The Basque Nationalist Party has only 32 of the 75 seats in the Basque parliament.

The chief Minister has a further motive for seeking agreement. His own party is tearing itself apart in a peculiarly Basque dispute, which has raged for months, over whether

residual powers should lie with the individual Basque provinces or with the autonomous government.

In return for the Socialists' votes, Señor Benegas has demanded a basic agreement on tackling terrorism and on the final limits of the Statute of Guernica, which established the Basque autonomous region.

The two rival political parties have fought, often bitterly, over such issues, especially at moments of tension. Before any pact can be implemented, the two leaders will have to sell it to their own highly suspicious parties. But the grim alternative already envisaged by some Basques, is of the present slide towards a breakdown of governmental authority degenerating into a Lebanon-like situation.

Spain's two police associations protested yesterday over a decision by a Barcelona court to order three police inspectors to stand trial over the killing of an urban terrorist in Barcelona two years ago. The three have been charged with homicide arising out of the death of Juan Martin Luna, who was one of the leaders of the First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups (GRAFO).

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

When the House of Commons last debated Hong Kong statehood went to its head. That was back in May, when members of all parties were so anxious not to prejudice negotiations that they fell over themselves to proclaim their confidence in Chinese good intentions.

So much so as to prove a positive embarrassment to British negotiators. It became harder for them thereafter to convince the Chinese that there was a serious danger of the House rejecting an unsatisfactory agreement.

That was the time for the Commons to sing a tough song. Now that a settlement has been reached it would be pointless doing so in today's debate. But the agreement is so widely regarded as a triumph of British diplomacy that there does not seem much risk of that. Yet the House will be failing in its task if it indulges simply in an exchange of mutual congratulations.

The agreement is in general a good one. Not only is it bound to be accepted; it deserves to be accepted. Yet some problems remain which need to be examined carefully.

One of the most critical is how far and how fast to develop Hong Kong's internal democracy. It is now intended that from next year the legislative council will be composed partly of members elected by all those who serve on the urban and regional councils and on district boards, partly of members elected by professional and corporate interest groups, partly of members appointed by the Governor and partly of official members.

Pressure to hold direct elections

This structure will be reviewed in 1987, before the next elections in 1988. But there is pressure to move more swiftly towards a system of full direct election. This arrangement would be the simplest, could command the most widespread international acceptance and would therefore be the hardest for the Chinese to sweep away without incurring international odium.

This is a powerful case, but there is not apparently widespread support in Hong Kong for rushing in that direction yet. The arguments for caution is that the Hong Kong tradition is one of consensus politics, that this will be all the more necessary after 1997, that it will be more easily preserved if there is a balance of interests and experience in the legislative council, that this requires at least some indirect election, and that anyway it would be folly to push through reforms which the Chinese would not be prepared to swallow.

In due course the whole legislative council will need to be elected, whether directly or indirectly. But it would seem wise to me to leave the newly devised structure in place until the 1987 review, and not to prejudge that review now. Whatever system is intended for Hong Kong after 1997, however, will need to be in place by the 1982 elections at the latest if it is to have full legitimacy.

Delicate questions of nationality

Then there is the delicate question of nationality laws. Some hurt and anxiety are inevitable when there is a change of sovereignty. But the group who pose the greatest problem are the 6,000 to 10,000 - the estimates vary - British dependent territory citizens of neither Chinese nor British origin.

They and their children, in theory at least, could become stateless persons. As Hong Kong residents they could apply for Chinese citizenship, though without the certainty as non-Chinese that this would be granted.

The present generation will probably be granted British overseas citizenship, which does not give the right of abode in this country but implies an ultimate moral obligation on Britain if things go badly wrong.

There is a demand that the same status should be available to those born there after 1997. But it would seem to me to be politically unwise to offer the vague title of British overseas citizen to an unknown number of people indefinitely into the future. There would remain the residual responsibility in particular cases not to allow individuals to become stateless.

What the people of Hong Kong need above all at this stage, though, is evidence of Britain's continuing interest. The suggestion of an annual parliamentary debate may be unrealistic, but there could at least be an official annual report on progress.

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The Association of

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

When the House of Commons last debated Hong Kong, that was back in 1982. The members of all parties were anxious not to prejudice negotiations that they felt were confidence in Chinese intentions.

So much so as to press positive endorsement of British negotiations. It was harder for them, therefore, to convince the House that there was a serious danger of a House rejecting an unsatisfactory agreement.

That was the time for a Commons to sing a tough song. Now that a settlement has been reached it would be possible to do so in today's debate. The agreement is so widely regarded as a triumph for British diplomacy that it does not seem much riskier that. Yet the House will be failing in its task if it simply in an exchange of mutual congratulations.

The agreement is in fact a good one. Not only for the people of Hong Kong, but also for the United Kingdom. It remains to be seen whether it is a permanent one, or whether it is a temporary one.

One of the most vocal Hong Kong critics of the agreement is the Hong Kong Association of Members of the House of Commons. It is a group of members of the House of Commons who serve on the House of Commons. It is a group of members of the House of Commons who serve on the House of Commons. It is a group of members of the House of Commons who serve on the House of Commons.

Pressure to hold direct elections

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Dependence of Hong Kong on the United Kingdom

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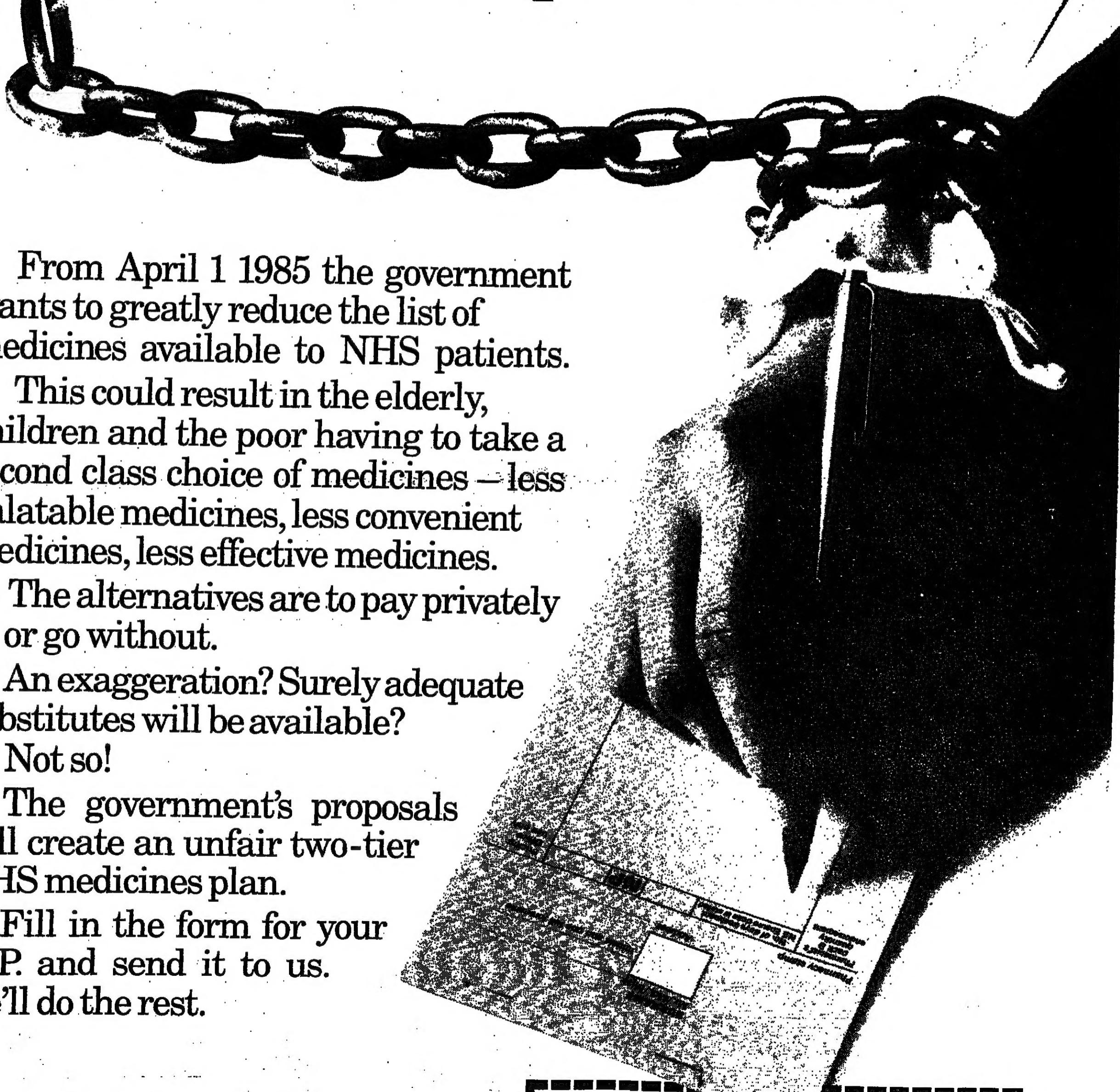
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SPECTRUM

The great space race to catch a comet

John Gribbin/Geoffrey Sims



David Whitehouse describes the rivalry to intercept Halley's Comet as it heads for the Sun

Comets have always fascinated, and occasionally terrified, the human race. These unpredictable visitors were once thought of as omens of war, famine and pestilence, or as fireballs cast down by God as warnings.

The truth is that a comet is "a dirty snowball" up to several kilometres in diameter and composed of ice, various quantities of frozen gases, and dust. This combination may not sound very thrilling, but with the imminent approach of the most famous of them all, Halley's Comet, a new space race has begun to be the first to meet it.

Halley's Comet is named after the English astronomer Edmund Halley who observed the comet in 1682, calculated its orbit and correctly predicted its return in 1757.

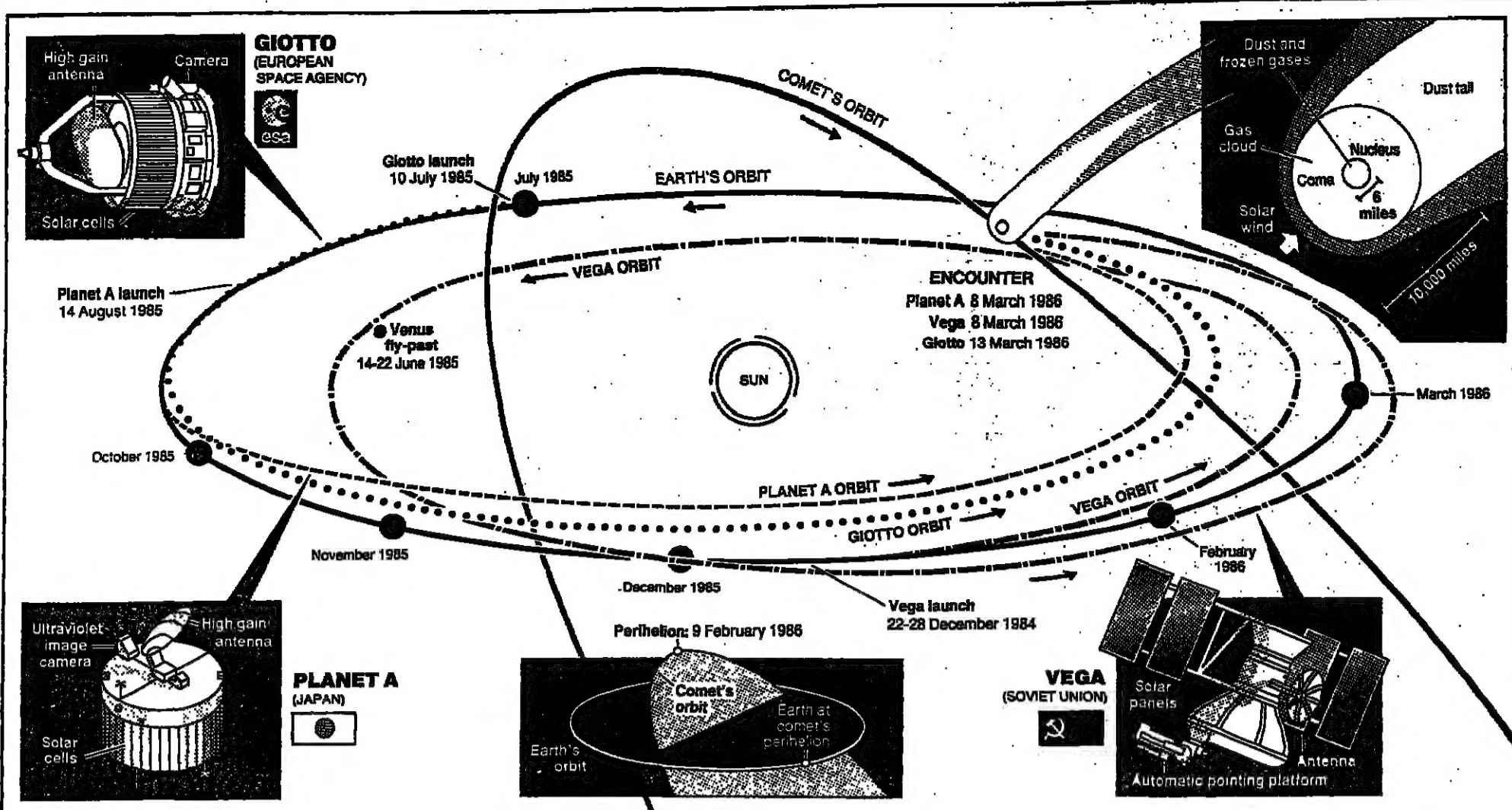
As relics of the early solar system, comets are very important. They are relatively unchanged since the formation of

the planets because they lie in "cold storage". They tell scientists about the nature and composition of the ancient gas cloud which formed the Sun, about formation processes in general and of the birth of our planetary system.

Halley's Comet returns to Earth every 76 years and it is next scheduled to pass close to the Sun in 1986. When it does, a flotilla of space probes will intercept it.

NASA was denied cash to be first

An embarrassing fact to emerge from this exciting development is that scientists from America's National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA), who have made the United States the world leader in space exploration for almost 20 years, will not be fielding a craft because of budget cutbacks.



However, more by luck than planning, the Americans are poised to become the first to shoot a space probe through the tail of a comet, albeit another comet and not Halley.

Last December NASA scientists reached the climax of the most complex series of orbital manoeuvres undertaken by a spacecraft when ISEE-3, the International-Sun-Earth-Explorer, was hurled towards a comet. ISEE-3 was launched in 1978 for a completely different task. It was designed to investigate and monitor the Sun's influence on the Earth's outer atmosphere. However, while it returned valuable data, a few scientists elsewhere began hatching a plan to upstage the other spacefaring nations involved in the race to Halley.

Two of the intercepting space probes, called Vega, are Russian; they will be launched later this month towards Venus, a part of a call on their way to Halley. Two more are Japanese while the fifth and most sophisticated is being sent by the European Space Agency (ESA); it is called Giotto. The Americans' predicament is a result of budget cuts and the severe curbing of NASA's ambitions following the Moonshots: there have been very few

US missions to explore the solar system in the past 10 years. And Halley's Comet will be arriving, thoughtlessly, in the middle of this sparse decade. Not surprisingly, American scientists have viewed this situation with alarm and for several years they lobbied for a mission to Halley. But NASA was denied the money while the European, Japanese and Russian projects went ahead. US scientists realized with bitterness and disappointment that it had become too late to send a world emissary to greet Halley's Comet.

NASA scientist Dr Robert Farquhar realized that by using an outrageous series of manoeuvres and orbital changes, the United States' ISEE-3 could make it to Comet Giacobini-Zinner months before the others reached Halley's. It was with this in mind that ISEE-3 was placed in the first of its transfer orbits in August last year. The satellite does not contain enough fuel to catch up the comet by itself so it was sent in a series of looping trajectories to swing it around the Moon five times. Each lunar flyby gave the spacecraft a gravitational kick to increase its velocity and change its direction. The final, and most

critical, one last December took it 60 miles above the lunar surface.

The probe will plunge into the tail of Giacobini-Zinner in September 1985, passing a mere 3,000 km from the nucleus and providing the first on-site measurements of a comet and its environment. The following year it will be between Halley and the Sun when the other probes reach it: a valuable additional platform from which to collect data to complement the observations made by other spacecraft.

A rocket will plunge deep into its shroud

Most comets travel in highly elliptical, cigar-shaped orbits that seldom bring them back to the warmth of the Sun. When they near the Sun, the frozen volatiles evaporate to form a fuzzy halo of gas, called a coma, around the nucleus. This coma is usually all that can be seen when a comet is discovered.

As the comet approaches the Sun, the gases and dust are blown away, billowing behind to form the familiar tail. Giotto will be launched in

mid-1985 by an Ariane rocket and will intercept Halley's nine months later, plunging deep into its dust shroud. At the speed Giotto will travel, collisions with minute dust particles could cause damage. To help target Giotto close to the nucleus, European astronomers have signed an agreement with their Soviet counterparts.

The Soviet Vega spacecraft will arrive at Halley's first and its tracking data will prove invaluable in the fine-tuning of Giotto's trajectory. Scientists estimate that Giotto has a 90 per cent chance of survival, but the longer it lives and the closer it gets to the nucleus the more valuable will be the data it returns.

All the probes going to Halley's are flyby missions - the ultimate in "safari" exploration - and none will be able to land alongside a comet for long periods. The problem is that such a spacecraft requires advanced rocket systems which have yet to be developed and would be limited to unimpressive comets which always stay relatively close to the Sun.

One such comet is Kopff, which orbits the Sun every 6.7 years. NASA is considering

using a spacecraft called the Mariner Mark 2, making use of existing components and spare parts such as motors and tanks from the Mars Viking missions and antennae from Voyager.

NASA hopes this will keep the cost of such a mission low, around \$300m (£250m), and that it could be launched from the space shuttle in 1990.

Timing would be critical because Mariner must meet the comet four years after launch when it is furthest from the Sun and remain within 10km of the comet for two years as it nears the Sun.

Kopff would be an exciting mission but already cometary scientists are even more ambitiously looking at a probe that will bring back to Earth a sample of a cometary nucleus. Such a sophisticated mission could not be undertaken this century, but a less demanding task would be to return with a sample of gas and dust from a comet's environment.

Engineers and scientists at NASA and ESA are studying the possibility of using a probe similar to that going to Halley's for a mission that could take place within the next few years. A possible target is Comet Brorsen-Metcalf, which has a

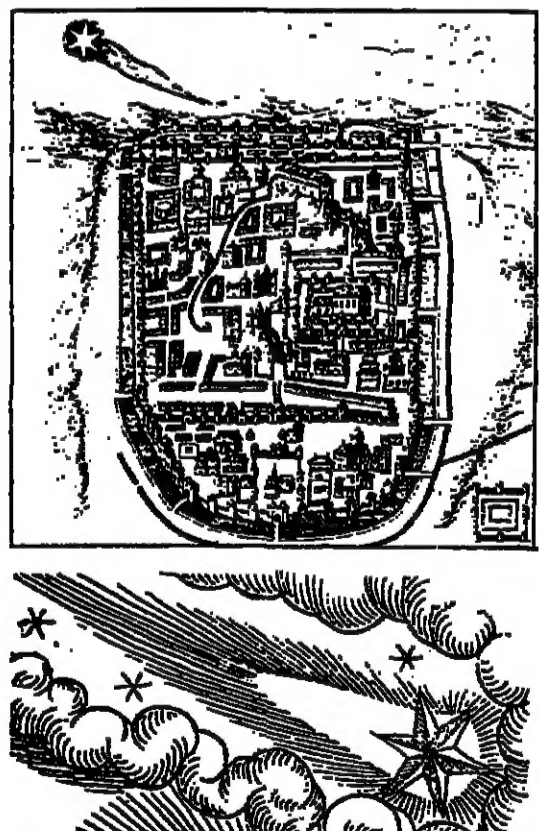
period of 70 years. A probe launched in December 1987 will encounter this comet in August 1989 and land back on Earth four months later.

This mission would be attractive because of its rich scientific reward and reduced cost because a lot of development work has been carried out on the Giotto probe.

America's ISEE-3 has now been renamed the International Cometary Explorer (ICE) and by 1987, after Halley's comet has started its journey back to the cold outer reaches of the solar system, ICE will be 120 million km from Earth. At that distance, 75 times greater than the range for which its radio transmitters were designed, even NASA's upgraded deep-space tracking network will lose ICE's signal.

ICE will return to Earth by about 2015. As one NASA scientist recently remarked: "The observations of the comet are OK but getting there will be half the fun."

The author is a space scientist at the Mullard Space Science Laboratory of University College London.



Top left: Halley's Comet over Jerusalem in 66 AD. Below: as seen in 1546 when it was commemorated by Pope Callixtus III. Above: depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry of 1066. Right: Halley's Comet in a cartoon by Leonard Raven-Hill (1767-1842) from *Punch*, 1910.

The alternative Booker list

moreover... Miles Kington

Some men of letters recommend some books by some of their friends.

A N Hamish - I very much enjoyed *Flaubert's Budgie*, which in my opinion should have won the Booker Prize: taut, brilliant, mesmeric and jewelled. The funniest book of the year for me was Volume 19 of the *Humphrey Lytton Letters*, in which the distinguished jazz trumpeter continues his correspondence with his old housemaster in an attempt to get paid for a gig he did for him in 1961. And the finest book of poetry beyond a doubt was *Sequestration* by Price Waterhouse, obscure and baffling, but giving glimpses of mighty forces in motion.

Hamish Nisgal - Although I enjoyed *Thackeray's Poodle*, my favourite novel of the year was *Arthur Liar* by Price Waterhouse: taut, brilliant, mesmeric and jewelled. This should have won the Booker Prize. The most outstanding historical book of the year was *Stanley and the Women*, a study of Baldwin's heroic struggle in 1936 to choose between Wallis Simpson, Queen Mary and the Queen Mother. Best book of poetry: *Hell, Everybody* by Kleinwort Benson.

Nalpaud Theroux - Brilliant! Taunt! Mesmeric! Jewelled, even? Yes, *Tolstoy's Gerbil* was all of these things and should have won the Booker Prize, but even more I enjoyed *Money* by Craig Rich, if I have the name right. Funniest book of the year was a study of the Duchess of Windsor, *How to be a Wallis*, and the most intriguing was *Stanley and the Women*, in which Scottish comedian Stanley Baxter reveals the secrets of doing a high-class drag act. I haven't read any poetry this year, but if I had I think I should have enjoyed *Library Fines* by Philip Larkin.

Theroux Massingham-Ferguson-Tractor - The most outstanding novel of the year for me was *Brilliant, Taunt, Mesmeric and Jewelled* by Julian Parrot, which should have won the Booker Prize and may well have done so for all I know, as I was out of the country at the time. Travel books were all the rage this year, and I very much enjoyed Clive James's barrowing account of seeing Japanese TV extracts in viewing theatres all over the world (he usually ended up screaming to be let out), but my favourite was

fast-moving, taut, moving and compelling, though again the ending seemed missing. Finally, one excellent gardening book: *The Name of The Rose*.

Lincoln by Gore Vidal, a quiet study of this sometimes overlooked cathedral city. One excellent children's book: *Stanley and the Parrots*.

The Ethiopian Cultural Attache - Hello. The books I most enjoyed were all written, coincidentally, by the Ethiopian leader, Colonel Mengistu. One was a novel, *Money? What Money?*, which I am pleased to say won the Ethiopian Book Prize. One was a historical work, *Ten Glorious Years and Lots More To Come*, and one a personal memoir entitled *Believe Me, I Haven't Seen The Money, And That's Final*, which came out in a private jewelled edition. It was also taut, brilliant and mesmeric.

McEwan Hunter - I very much enjoyed a thriller by a name new to me, *Hit List* by Ian MacGregor. Taut, violent, brilliant, mesmeric, fast-moving and gripping. Unfortunately, there seemed to be no ending in my copy. I was also sent for review this year an anonymous racy tale of the sea, *HMS Conqueror Logbook*, which was

Craig Parrot - Before the Falklands War started, Port Stanley was just a sleepy little colonial town far from anywhere. Now a major garrison port, it seems with the sort of life we used to associate with Marseilles - poets, pimps, musicians, peddlers, prostitutes and colourful madames from all lands - and I very much enjoyed a new study of the place, *Stanley and the Women*. Best book of poetry: *Six Into One Doesn't Go* by Booker Prize.

Arthur Koestler - Yes, it's really me, Arthur Koestler! Yes, there is communication from the other side. And things are pretty exciting over here, I can tell you. For instance, I have been having some long chats with Herr Hitler, now a reformed character, and he has been telling me the truth about his diaries, some of which he has allowed me to read so my message to readers of *The Times*, and especially to Lord Dacre, is... pip, pip, pip, pip... damn, my money's run out. I'll try to get through again as soon as possible...

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1 Rubber seal (6)	13 Thick-skinned mammal (9)
4 Swampy land (6)	14 Volition (4)
7 Clamorous (4)	15 Toss (4)
8 Arab headdress (8)	16 Brahmaputra state (5)
9 Fine fabric (5)	20 Speak (5)
13 Church bench (3)	21 Spoon (3)
16 Learned (13)	22 Employment (4)
17 Annoy constantly (3)	23 Dirt particles (4)
19 Target centre (5,3)	
24 Miscellaneous (8)	
25 Inca republic (4)	
26 Male party (6)	
27 Excuse (6)	

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Tomorrow Profile of Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General

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The Times

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Enjoy the richness of Christmas

Twelfth Night, with its King and Queen and feasting, used to be one of the high points of Christmas. Shona Crawford Poole explains how today's pudding replaced the festive cake



TWELFTH NIGHT.

Midwinter revels: The King and Queen of Twelfth Night as seen by George Cruikshank

As if they did not have enough to answer for without taming Christmas, Queen Victoria and Charles Dickens all but ruined its image. What had once been a lively, not to say licentious, midwinter revel was domesticated and commercialized. It was in their time that the bosoms of the family rose higher in men's admitted aspirations than any as yet unconquered bosoms - except at the office party which has close spiritual ties with the Christmas celebrations of old.

Twelfth night was the big do, and by the 17th century its gastronomic centrepiece was a Twelfth cake. The cake hid tokens by which a king and queen were chosen to rule the night's festivities, turning the everyday order topsy-turvy.

The tradition of a pretend king licensed with large but limited powers can be traced back much further. By the 19th century it had become no more than a genteel parlour game. Ornate and expensive cakes drew crowds to the bakers' windows, but they no longer held the key to festive power. These were distributed separately now by lots drawn from a bag or hat, casting in on the floor, printers ran off pictures of not only kings and queens but also a host of more eccentric characters for partygoers to pick and play. The characters changed with fashion exactly as pantomime figures and jokes do today and their names are just as often alternative. The Victorian character sheets are littered with Lady Lovewells, Sir Walter Watchfuls, Miles Misrules, Fanny Fidgets and Toby Tipples.

Remnants of the near-forgotten festivities linger on. Elaborate Twelfth cakes became homely Christmas cakes and sometimes still conceal a trinket or charm for good luck. More often, though, if there is a silver sixpence to be found, it will be

under the holly in a home-made Christmas pudding. Recipes for "light" Christmas cakes which are less fruity and costly versions of the dark, traditional thing, turn up every year. There is nothing the matter with them except that they lack festive spirit, the special-occasion feeling of a really extravagant cake.

Instead, or as well, why not make the richest, darkest chocolate cake imaginable? This one keeps for weeks in the fridge. It is moist enough to serve as a pudding and elegant enough for anyone's tea. The recipe is based on American writer-caterer Martha Stewart's double diabolio cake, and it is diabolically good, that's for sure.

Very rich chocolate cake
Makes a 30cm (12in) cake

- 110g (4oz) muscatel raisins, chopped
- 120ml (4fl oz) whisky
- 400g (14oz) good dark chocolate
- 4 tablespoons water
- 225g (8oz) unsalted butter
- 6 large eggs, separated
- 285g (10oz) light brown or caster sugar
- 110g (4oz) wholemeal flour, or plain flour
- 170g (6oz) ground almonds
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

For the icing:

- 340g (12oz) good dark chocolate
- 350ml (12fl oz) double cream

Soak the raisins in the whisky overnight. In a large bowl set over a pan of hot water, melt the chocolate with water, then stir in the butter, a piece at a time until the mixture is smooth. Beat the egg yolks with the sugar until the mixture is pale and fluffy, and stir it into the melted chocolate. Add the flour and the almonds followed by the raisins and whisky and mix them all lightly together.

Whisk the egg whites with the salt to a stiff meringue and fold it into the chocolate mixture, adding a third of the meringue at a time.

Turn the cake mixture into a 30cm (12in) cake tin which has been lined with buttered greaseproof paper or with baking parchment. Alternatively, divide the mixture between two 20cm (8in) tins prepared in the same way. Loosely-baked tins with expanding sides are the easiest to use.

Smooth the top of the cake



A portly Twelfth Night king getting portlier

and bake it in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for 35 minutes or until the centre of the cake is still moist but the sides are just beginning to shrink from the tin.

Leave the cake in the papers but out of its tin until it is quite cold.

Remove the papers and set the cake on a wire rack to ice. Melt together the chocolate and cream, stir until smooth and pour the icing over the cake. If the heat has made the icing very thin allow it to cool and thicken a little before pouring it over the cake.

Allow at least two hours for the icing to harden to a rich, fudge-like consistency. Re-stained decorations such as dark chocolate leaves or curls look best on this cake.

To make chocolate leaves pick a selection of non-poisonous leaves - bay or rose for example. Wash and dry them. Melt some good dark chocolate on a plate over a pan of hot water and dip the underside of every leaf into the chocolate. Transfer them to a wire rack to set. When the chocolate has hardened, peel away the real leaves to reveal their exact copies in chocolate.

You will probably break as many as you succeed in making but as the chocolate can be melted and re-used nothing need be wasted.

Not everyone enjoys the rich puddings traditional in this country at Christmas. Two luxurious fruit puddings which are posh versions of everyday fare look and taste acceptably festive.

Instead of pears cooked in red wine, try whole apples cooked in cider - *pommes dorées* no less. There is now an edible gold powder which can be used to gild stalks and real or chocolate leaves, turning humble apples into a real party piece.

Pommes dorées
Serves six

- 6 Cox's orange pippins
- 1 pint cider
- 55g (2 oz) demerara sugar, or to taste
- 2 whole cloves
- 10cm (4 in) stick cinnamon

Choose good, crisp apples which are evenly sized and not bruised. Using a very sharp knife, cut off the skin of the apples in a spiral starting from the base and preserving the shape of the fruit as prettily as possible. Leave the stems attached. Drop the peeled

apples into water acidulated with a tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice to stop them browning.

Heat together the cider, sugar and spices, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Arrange the apples in one layer in a casserole or oven-proof dish and pour the cider syrup and spices over them. Bake the apples in a very cool oven (120°C/250°F, gas mark 1/2) for about two hours, turning them several times. The apples are ready when they are tender but still whole, which is why they are baked so slowly.

Remove the spices and leave the apples to cool in the syrup. Chill them well before serving. The flavour of the apples improves with keeping, refrigerated, for up to a week. The fruit should be turned daily to keep it moist and evenly coloured. Serve the apples in a glass bowl decorated, if you like, with plain or gilded leaves. The stems of the fruit can also be gilded.

Christmas fruit compot is spiced too and the fruit cooked in red wine. The wine can be as ordinary as you like.

Christmas fruit compot
Serves ten to twelve

- 900g (2lb) mixed, dried fruit, prunes, apricots, figs, peaches and pears
- 1 bottle red wine
- 110g (4oz) demerara sugar
- 8 cloves
- 2 sticks cinnamon
- Finely pared zest of 1 tangerine
- 110g (4oz) blanched almonds

Soak the fruit in the wine overnight. Next day add the sugar, spices and peel and simmer the fruit until it is tender. Discard the spices and peel. Put the fruit into a serving bowl and add the nuts. Reduce the wine syrup to about 450ml (1/2 pint) and strain it over the fruit and nuts. Chill well before serving.

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Serves eight to ten

- 225g (8oz) muscatel raisins, stored
- 225g (8oz) currants
- 170g (6oz) fresh brown breadcrumbs
- 55g (2oz) blanched almonds, roughly chopped
- 55g (2oz) glacé cherries, quartered
- 55g (2oz) soft brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons finely grated orange zest
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 3 large eggs
- 150ml (1/4 pint) port
- 6 tablespoons brandy

This sweet-free and butter-free pudding keeps just as well as a conventional pudding and tastes every bit as good, if not better.

Put all the dry ingredients, the raisins, currants, bread crumbs, nuts, cherries, sugar, orange zest and spices into a large bowl and mix thoroughly with your hands. In another bowl whisk the eggs, port and brandy. Pour the liquid over the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly. Butter one large or two smaller pudding basins and turn the mixture into them, leaving room for the pudding to rise a little. Cover the basins with buttered greaseproof paper and foil and tie these lids on very tightly with string. Water must not get into the puddings while they are cooking.

Stand each basin in a saucepan and pour in boiling water to come about half-way up its sides. Bring the water back to the boil, reduce the heat to a visible bubbling simmer, cover the pans and simmer the puddings for six hours regardless of their size. Even if you have doubled the quantities to make one huge pudding, six hours' cooking will still be enough. Check the water level every hour or so.

Cool the puddings, then remove their covering papers. Sprinkle a tablespoon more of brandy over them and re-cover them with unbuttered greaseproof paper and foil. Store the puddings in a cool place.

The whole idea of making Christmas puddings a few weeks or months in advance is that this allows time for rich ingredients to blend and mellow into mature flavours. There is, therefore, no point at all in storing them in a freezer which simply holds the pudding in the freshest possible state. The same principle applies to rich Christmas fruit cakes.

On Christmas Day steam the pudding for two hours. Turn it on to a heated serving plate and pour about two tablespoons of warm brandy over it. Light the alcohol and take to table with blue brandy flames licking over the pudding.

● **Cakes and Characters** by Bridget Ann Henisch, an exhaustive history of the evolution of Christmas cake, is published by Prospect Books, £12.

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY



Season of goodwill and radical cheek

Leafing back through my recent entries, I see it is a while since I mentioned the Street Radical in any detail. Since the departure of Petronella for richer times, I have been concentrating on the horrible Parvis Maitland, his family the Sub-Sloanes, and the philanthropic Jellybys. In terms of human interest, all three have limited shelf-lives, and it is high time to return to old topics.

To put it at its simplest, the Radical has become a mascot. His rationale, as far as I can gather from garbled accounts in the Waterman's Arms, runs as follows: since the emancipation of the middle-class woman and the resulting rise of the modern father's domestic input, the male is shouldering more and more of the domestic burden; if his wife (poor woman) had responded in equal measure by pulling in at least the fraction of a wage, then there would be equity.

Instead, so he says, all that has happened is that her leisure has been enhanced, while his has been impaired. His colleagues at the advertising agency are right behind him on this one, and a deal has been struck. Next week they are to change places for a day, he will look after the two boys, she will go into the office to learn at first hand about the sharp end of wage slavery.

The school party is hoping to recruit a new Santa. Parvis Maitland did it last year, but after his concert and auction for Ethiopia at the church hall a fortnight ago, he has temporarily withdrawn himself from public service, the better to maintain his scarce value. Miss Judd has approached the Street Radical in a bid to draw him back into the fold of the PTA; he has declined, with a written statement which reads: "I am unable to take an active part in a pagan festival which so clearly traduces the spirit of Christmas socialism."

Yesterday's lifestyle swap cheer: Radicals has proved instructive for both parties, but if he has his way (which he usually does), the exercise will not be repeated, by piecing together the accounts of his neighbours, I gather that what happened went something like this.

The boys - known locally as Jan Botham and Henry Cooper - embarked on a programme of civil disobedience not two minutes after their mother, glowing with purpose, had sailed from the house. If I say they cut up rough, I mean it quite literally. They took a Stanley knife to the Amatic and threatened to gouge it from wall

to wall unless he did exactly as they said.

No sooner had he returned from the first school run than it was time to embark on the second, leaving little time for last night's washing up - let alone getting someone in to deal with the fridge which had again defrosted spontaneously, making everything inside go limp and drooly. Suddenly the Guardian leaders and Indian Test report receded into luxury items.

By tea-time, with the television blaring and the food being spread on the walls like a dirty protest, plus a mishap in Botham's pants, and four strange children brought back from school (very much as he does with his own colleagues), and the minute hand of the clock suddenly dropping a gear as it always does at such times, the Radical was approaching a state of clinical madness and emitting strangled swears at his absent wife (who, incidentally, was by this time into her second Martini with "the lads" at the "office canteen", a very Sloane pub in Kensington Church Street).

By 8pm the situation was largely unchanged, except that the four strange children had left, believing themselves to be in danger from this unstable man, and the fifth Martini was being downed in WS.

Having at last wrestled the boys (one with his shoes still on) into the bunk bed, the Radical realized that he needed a drink, but could not - legally could not - leave the house. A sprint to the off-licence perhaps? No. What if his wife returned? It was about an hour later that he heard the key in the lock and saw her enter, mellow but crisp.

"I've been trapped", he started. "Trapped in this bloody..."

"Any food?" she said, unimpressed, and barged past him to the weeping fridge.

"Good day, dear?". She was keeping the initiative. Drunk, but not too much.

His silence was eloquent, as was the first moan of what was to become a major roar by the younger boy upstairs.

She opened the Guardian at the cricket and muttered: "Poor old Gower's not having much luck, is he?"

"You haven't asked me how I got on," she continued.

"Oh. Yes. And how did you get on?"

"Great. And you know what? You'll be delighted. They've offered me a job."

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THE TIMES DIARY

Following suit

The threat by chief whip Michael Cooks to take legal action against Labour's national executive provoked grins in certain Labour quarters. They believe the investigation he is demanding into his constituency party may reveal more about his supporters' methods than those of the left who want him deselected. In 1982, the Bannister paper *Tribune* published details of a private meeting held at a Bristol hotel shortly before boundary changes pitted Cooks against Tony Benn for Bristol's one safe Labour seat. It was attended by right-wing trade union officials, including John Golding MP and NEC member. Golding who "expressed the need to protect Michael Cooks (sic) back against the far left", outlined a plan to increase trade union representation on the management committee of constituency parties, where neither right nor left was dominant. The meeting suggested that trade unionists "could be offered the inducement of not actually becoming involved in the CLPs", but of simply registering and "only attending the annual meeting of the GMC or selection conference as necessary." Cooks beat Benn for the constituency nomination - helped by a sizeable trade union vote.

Christmas log

Tam Dalyell has received his first Christmas card. It bears the emblem of HMS Conqueror and is signed "With best wishes for Christmas and New Year from the president and members of the senior rates mess". The words "Proverbs 26:20" are written in the bottom corner. The verses in question read: "When wood faileth the fire shall go out, and when the talebearer is taken away contentions shall cease."

Trimmed council

As Patrick Jenkins battles to defend his local government Bill in the Commons this week, he will be delighted to know that another perpetual thorn in his side, is apparently self-destructing. The majority on which Liverpool council depends to push through its promised illegal budget next year is fast evaporating. Yesterday morning Labour councillor Julian Clarke resigned over the council's appointment of a Militant sympathiser as relations adviser. Opposition Liberals are certain they will seize his marginal ward in the by-election, as they did another Labour ward two weeks ago. Another Labour councillor has been off ill for many months, and five rebels who voted against Labour's illegal budget proposals last year can be expected to do the same again. That reduces Labour's original majority of 17 to just two. One more waverer in a council already £17m overspent this year and Jenkins - for once - will be laughing.

● In the *Literary Review* Francis When calls Clive James' latest poetry "eaten by rats". Patricia House, in a lengthy attack in *The Magazine*, describes most of his recent work as "drivel". Such venom from two pundits in one month? Not really: "Miss House" is Francis When's pen-name.

Extra duty

Islington Council may support the miners, but it is also making money from their dispute. For the use of a small room in the town hall it is charging striking Welsh miners on fundraising duties a sum believed to be almost £500 a week. "It's just ordinary, prudent, business-like practice," said a spokesman yesterday. It is not a practice adopted by other left-wing councils, however. Both Lambeth and Hackney have given miners' support groups office space - and are charging the pittance nothing.

BARRY FANTONI



"It makes a change from hitting the post"

Reprieve

Channel 4 has apparently succumbed to the threats to "publicly execute" chief executive Jeremy Isaacs made by enraged Derby Muslims after last year's screening of *The Blood of Hussain*, a film highly critical of Pakistan's military regime. To "redress the balance" commissioning editor Farrukh Dhondy is to view five soap operas made by Pakistani television and will screen the best next year. A Pakistani soap opera with sub-titles is more than a match for Dallas, he assures me.

PHS

Less money, more incentives

by David Young

"The State, in organising security, should not stifle incentive, opportunity, responsibility; in establishing a national minimum, it should leave room and encouragement for voluntary action by each individual to provide more than that minimum for himself and his family."

Wise words indeed, but not mine. They were contained in a report commissioned by a previous minister without portfolio over 40 years ago. Sir William Beveridge was the author, and his report laid the foundation of the social security system. But what did he build on that foundation?

In 1949, the point at which a married man with two children began to pay income tax was twice his level of National Assistance. Today it is about the same as his supplementary benefit. Moreover, the supplementary benefit claimant who earns more than £4 a week has his benefit reduced pound for pound by the amount of his earnings - why should he bother, therefore, to take part-time or casual work or resist the temptation to earn more in the informal economy? If he can find full-time work, he may be no better off - in 1981 about 240,000 working families actually earned less than they could have received from supplementary benefit. Where now is incentive and responsibility?

It is not just the effect on the individual which should concern us. Spending on social

security is now about 30 per cent of all public spending - about £40bn next year. It has grown fivefold in real terms since Beveridge, and is still growing. The system has evolved in piecemeal fashion, compared with the clear objectives set by Beveridge.

We all believe that the truly disadvantaged should be safeguarded against want - one of Beveridge's "five giants on the road to reconstruction". The others were disease, ignorance, squalor and idleness. Most of us today would say that only the last remains a giant to be slain. This is where my unease about the system lies. We should aim to relieve genuine need and we should concentrate our resources to that end.

If social security payments can in any circumstances act as an obstacle to individual incentive and employment, then we have come a long way from Beveridge.

There has been some research to confirm most people's intuitive feeling that the level of benefit paid to young people can act as a disincentive. Beveridge was sure of it and said so: "For boys and girls there should ideally be no unconditional benefit at all; their enforced abstention from work should be made an occasion of further training."

I am not saying that supplementary benefit for a 16 or 17-year-old is a king's ransom. But if we can offer young people good training, and it must be good, or a job, and there are still very many jobs for young people, why offer anything else? Living off the state does not represent an ideal start in life for a youngster.

We need to change attitudes, especially among the young, about claiming benefits. We must make training and education more relevant to the needs of employment in tomorrow's world. We must learn from our competitors. We need to look critically at the systems we have evolved for national insurance and tax to see if they act as a deterrent to employment. We should also get back to the Beveridge view of cooperation between the state and the individual in social security. There must be room, and incentive, for people to help themselves and their families.

But above all else we must fan the flame of enterprise. In the past 20 years the fire nearly went out. It is now burning vigorously. Anything that the Government can do to help, it will. But the enterprise must be the people's.

Lord Young of Graffham is Minister without Portfolio. This is extracted from a speech given yesterday to the Building Employers' Federation.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Beware of the hydra that threatens liberty



Selling Militant papers: nothing like today's roaring bazaar

Trotsky was if not a communist. There are two dangers in the widely held view that these organizations do not matter and that all our attention should be directed to the CP. The first concerns the view that because what they believe is ridiculous, what they do must be no less so. The second lies in the assumption that because they spend much of their energy fighting one another they have none left for damaging our democratic system or institutions. Both are fallacious.

For many years, the CPGB not only claimed a monopoly in the totalitarianism of the left, but truly exercised one. There was a single Trotskyite organization, the Revolutionary Communist Party, but it had only a shadowy existence, and there was nothing like today's roaring bazaar of the fascist left. The CP's organization, too, was an exceptionally efficient instrument; the party's leaders were obeyed without question by the rank and file, and its control over its colonies, such as the electricians' union, a grip established and maintained by fraud, forgery, deceit, slander and mendacity, was complete.

As the CP grew sclerotic and its leaders corrupt, its influence waned. The ETU was prised from its grip (with no help from the TUC), its governing support for the Soviet Union ceased to have any wide-spread appeal, its daily paper, which was always bad, became unreadable even by the most faithful Stalinist. As for recruitment, it has dried up almost completely; the young *enrages* of the 1960s, for instance, who might have been drawn to it in the days of its vigour, regarded it with contempt and, derision, and would no more have joined the CP

than they would the Band of Hope or the Chastity League.

Into the resulting vacuum there was sucked a gallimaufry of communist groups with all the bigotry, dishonesty and totalitarianism of the CP, together with a ruthlessness that the older body had lost. For a long time, the most effective of these was the Socialist Workers' Party, capable of such spectacular coups as creating virtually overnight a huge and brilliantly organized front organization like the "Anti-Nazi League". The SWP, though it has many more members (mind you, we are still talking of only a few thousand people), has been somewhat overshadowed lately by the tiny Workers' Revolutionary Party, better known as Vanessa's Loomies, which has had its own successes, particularly with its newspaper. The International Marxist Group had a brief heyday in its turn, largely because of the extraordinary personality of Tariq Ali, who achieved the astounding feat of making totipotism at brain-damage level hypocritically fascinating. Alas, Mr Ali broke one too many promises to return to Pakistan and carry on the fight there, and now he is too showporn to be interviewed on television even by Mr John Pilger. But by far the biggest and most successful of the non-CP communist groups is, of course, the Militant Tendency, which works within the Labour Party; it has defied the received wisdom in its direct assault on local authority Labour groups and parliamentary constituency parties, and in doing so had more success in a dozen years than the CP by its methods of working mostly through the unions and entirely through

infiltration, ever had in half a century.

Now where does that leave us? None of these organizations has much positive effect, any more than the CP did. But just as the CP's effect, though negative, was at times very considerable (I remain convinced that much of the postwar decline of Britain's motor-car industry, and still more that of shipbuilding and the docks, should be seen as triumphs for the CP's policy of damaging Britain wherever it could), so the effect of the SWP and the WRP is not to be discounted altogether. It takes somewhat different forms: the SWP, for instance, has frequently concentrated on causing public disorder, and its joy, inadequately disguised as mourning, at the death of Blair Peach, a ready-made martyr for the cause, was as repulsive as it was expected.

But all these people, though they may disagree with some of the CP's policies and despite all of its leading figures, are still communists. So are the members of the Militant Tendency, and in more ways than one. The CP's ultimate goal was to control the Labour Party through the trades unions. Militant's is to do the same through a combination of its influence in the unions (patchy and not yet very widespread), the Parliamentary Labour Party (many fellow-travellers round a nucleus of declared supporters) and the local authorities and constituency parties (very large and growing very fast - vide the future ex-MPs for Stepping, Brent, Greenwich and Manchester Exchange).

All this adds up to a formidable influence. The CP's dream of taking over the Labour Party was doomed from the start to be disappointed, but Militant's dream cannot be dismissed so easily. Its leaders have not made the CP's mistake of insisting on total control of the forces of totalitarianism, but make alliances and strike bargains wherever they can, just as Mr Livingstone of the GLC has managed to gather under his capacious umbrella a wide variety of groups and individuals who have only one thing in common - their determination to replace our democratic system by one that would ultimately be indistinguishable from that of Albania. The Militants, and to a lesser extent the SWP, are exceptions to the policy, which elsewhere among the non-CP communists runs unbroken, of practising mutual hate for their brothers in revolution; that indeed is why they are so successful, and why I suspect that the belief in the ineffectiveness of a movement so divided was a mistake, and categorized as equally misplaced the belief that views so extravagantly absurd in the eyes of the voters could never have any effect.

To ignore a danger is to increase it. I believe we should be much readier to classify as communists those groups whose inspiration is a totalitarian vision, whether inspired by Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Mao or none of these. A simple typographical device will be sufficient to make the still useful distinction between the CP and its rivals for the honour of ushering in that grim dawn: let us write Communist when we mean the CPGB, and communist when we mean the others. But the form is less important than the substance. And the substance is a recognition that the evils of both Communism and communism now come in a wide variety of wrappings, and the eternal vigilance of those who believe in liberty should now be directed more than ever to stripping off those plausibly decorated coverings and uncovering the reality inside.

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Only God knows

Philip Howard: new words and new meanings

person singular: "Through Jesus Christ who liveth and reigneth..." (third person singular). Fowler himself used the *Prayer Book*, with "which art", "who sheweth", and scores of other examples, as overwhelming evidence that "who" is not a third-person word, but a word of whichever person is appropriate.

The revisers modernized the second person singular "est" into the modern third person singular inflexion "-s" throughout. So "O God who seest" becomes "O God who sees". You could say that this is ungrammatical, much like, "You comes here often, doesn't you?"

When you do say it, the modernizers reply: "In seeking to remove the more obvious archaisms, our first instinct was to do what ASB has done, and to transform a 'Lord, who' clause into

a 'Lord, you' - petition into statement. But on reflection we concluded that this was banal, and presumptuous. In any case, we were told not to use 'you' of the Deity. So we had a choice between 'Lord, who make' (but 'who' is indistinguishable in number in English, unlike *qui, quae, quod*) or 'Lord, who makes' (with an implicit ellipsis - 'Lord, you are the one) who makes'. Classical construction would find this unacceptable, but it is acceptable in terms of evolving English usage."

To this the purists reply indignantly that to address somebody, particularly somebody as important as God, in the vocative, and then to use the verb in the third person singular is quite unacceptable even in terms of evolving English usage. Almighty himself has not yet pronounced on the matter. Though I

think if I were at matins at Lampeter or glorious Llandaf, using the new *Prayer Book*, I might steal an apprehensive look at the vaulting when we came to the collect. We do not yet say, "You pudent, who thinks you know all about English grammar", or "Miss, you has written the wrong word on the board."

You could say that this is further evidence that the nice old distinctions of the relative pronoun are decaying fast, and that the younger generation do not know their "who" from their "whom" and do not care. You could say that scholarship, devotion, and relevance are more important than grammar. You could say (C. S. Lewis did say in his first *Letter to Malcolm*, deprecating frequent alterations to the liturgy): "The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God." You could say that, although no doubt God is no pedant, and understands our imperfect mummings, you might as well get the grammar right when addressing him.

Robin Cook

A better way to spread the takings

I should have known better. It is not the first time I have witnessed a speech based on hours of diligent research and crafted with loving care, immortalized in print by a single incautious parenthesis.

Last week I addressed the Annual Convention of Community Business Scotland, an umbrella for the 40 young, community-owned companies and co-operatives which have sprouted across some of the most deprived neighbourhoods, as a local response to economic dereliction.

In the course of a half-hour examination of the daunting scale of unemployment and poverty confronting such areas, I happened to mention the case of the bookmaker's shop in Easterhouse, the sprawling derelict housing estate on the periphery of Glasgow. Despite the poverty of its surroundings, this enterprise proves the notion of a brisk cashflow and dreams off from the community and into the balance sheet of its nation-state a plump sum.

It is estimated locally at half a million pounds a year. Why not, I asked rhetorically, a community-owned bookmaker, so that at least the money was returned to the community through investment in jobs and support for local services?

Next day I woke to discover my passing reference had blossomed in the Scottish press into "MP Backs Community Bookies". I am left with a grim foreboding that my postbag this week will confirm that my countrymen are not ready for social ownership of gambling dens.

Yet now that I am backed into this corner, let me defiantly again ask, why not? If we are serious about regenerating the Easterhouses of the country, how do we imagine that they will ever achieve self-sustaining growth so long as they are served solely by commercial enterprises, each of whom, from the bookie to the brewer, extracts their profits for remittance to a national office, exploiting the council estate as though it were a sort of miniature Third World state?

Even those residents who are fortunate enough to hold a job are likely to find they are making regular contributions to superannuation funds which would never dream of investing where its members actually live. Indeed, at one level the pension funds have become a device for undermining what is left of regional policy by transmitting compulsory savings from the assisted areas into investment in the prosperous regions of the country.

The first stimulus to the mushrooming growth of community businesses has been the need to replace such extractive economies by genuine local economies with the opportunity for internal circulation of its income. The second is that it has unconsciously dawned on those who have to grapple with the awesome social problems of areas where the local male unemployment rate may be over 40 per cent, that

there could be a general and prolonged rally in the national economy with little perceptible impact on the very communities which have been hit worst by recession.

Hence the sudden outbreak of commercial companies registered by community groups and attempting to influence the outcome of market forces at local level in order to compensate for Mrs Thatcher's refusal to do so in the national economy. In my own backyard, a community group in an area of severe unemployment has formed its own company to convert a derelict bakery for small workshops, and now wrestles with an embarrassing problem of success, having attracted applications from insipid local enterprises which outstrip the capacity of the workshops threefold.

By supplying the right work space and offering a range of common office services and support, they have provided the catalyst for new businesses formed by local people.

Appositely, the locals still boast that the generator in the basement of the old bakery provided the village with the first public street lighting in Scotland. Possibly the building now hosts a fresh innovation which will be equally limited.

In tandem with this spread of community businesses, there has been a prodigious growth in worker co-operatives. Co-operatives are the fastest growing form of business organization in Britain, and one of the few in which new jobs are surfacing faster than old ones are going under. In the past two years the number of registered co-operatives in Britain has doubled, a geometric rate of progression which has enabled the Cooperative Development Agency to produce the speculative extrapolation that by the end of the century there will be a quarter of a million such units which will dominate the business sector.

Moreover, the statistics reveal that the success rate for co-operatives is at least as good as for small business generally, and their proportion in manufacturing is actually much higher than the figure for conventional companies of similar size.

This fresh crop of workers' co-operatives, and its sister growth of community business, is proof of the attraction of the maxim that it is labour that should hire capital for its use, not capital that should harness labour for its ends.

These are trends which merit pondering in a week when the Government is preening itself on the wide ownership it has secured for British Telecom by converting it from being the property of over 50 million citizens to the assets of fewer than 2 million shareholders. At national level public ownership may be in retreat, but at the grassroots social forms of ownership have never been more popular.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Digby Anderson

Permissive hosts must pay the bill

The party is over and the bills are coming in.

It is difficult to say exactly when the permissive sex party started. Was the first eager guest the Lady Chatterley trial at the end of the 1950s? Were things at full swing when the Church of England's 1966 report, *Putting Asunder*, recommended that "the doctrine of the breakdown of marriage should be comprehensively substituted for the doctrine of matrimonial offence as the basis of all divorce?"

It has certainly been a crowded party: the 1969 Divorce Act, the 1973 Matrimonial Causes Act, the legalization of adult homosexuality, easier, very much easier, abortions, increased hand-outs for that immoral confabulation of the deserving and the undeserving, the "single parent family", contraceptive pills for children in defiance of their parents' wishes, activist education in sexual and "interpersonal" relations and now, leaning on the door bell, desperate to get in before the ideological plank runs out, experimentation with human embryos.

This last guest will have to clamber over a mounting pile of bills: AIDS, linked to promiscuous homosexuality; herpes and gonorrhoea both connected with increased promiscuity; breast and cervical cancer possibly by long-term use of the contraceptive pill; the latter also possibly linked with early sexual activity; and the growing problem, highlighted recently by the NSPCC, of the sexual abuse of children.

Some can be costed: divorce running at 147,000 a year, 1,100 per cent up on the pre-war figure and costing perhaps £1,000m a year in legal bills, social security, child care and medical expense. Almost 35,000 abortions for the first quarter of 1984. Extrapolated for the year, that is 139,656 foetuses aged up to 150 days, killed at perhaps £500 each. And while 1960s taxpayers had £1.5m spent for them, one-parent families, today's pay £1,000m.

It must immediately be said that the totals on the bills are disputed and, more important, some bills may be misaddressed. They are not all the straightforward results of permissiveness. Some can be read in a wholly opposite sense. Thus increased divorce has been offered as evidence of the health of marriage: partners having higher expectations of marriage repeatedly divorce and remarry in perfectionist pursuit of them.

It is also possible that emphasizing the awful consequences of the sexual revolution may not be a reaction against it but a vicarious development of it. Americans are

clearly enjoying discussing AIDS enormously. Sex and medicine combined in the scenario and imagery of a mediaeval plague!

But even when the most generous allowances are made, one conclusion remains: it is now up to the progressives to defend their revolution. It can no longer be taken for granted.

Cast into doubt are its essential assumptions: unlimited tolerance of different tastes; freedom for individuals to develop as long as they do not appear to be hurting others; and the dissolution of responsibility by reason. AIDS teaches that you cannot learn facts as yet unknown and that hurt to others may be indirect and unpredictable. The facts about cervical cancer remain stubbornly mobile; the taxpayers' bill for lone parents merits a discussion exceeded in complexity only by those of abortion and embryo experimentation.

The old wisdom, displaced by progressive gospel, no longer looks quite so *passé*. Its adherents did not question everything but followed religious and social conventions even when these appeared arbitrary or senseless. They accepted that men were capable of considerable viciousness and needed rules which had stood the test of time rather than that of reason. Desires were repressed by inculcated habit and deterrence. Repression was not then viewed as a bad thing. And a necessary corollary of the rules was the guilt, fear, scandal and stigma so denounced and derided by "rational" progressives. They do not appear so obviously ridiculous today.

With hindsight we can see the progressive reforms were not founded on facts and reason but very limited information and questionable assumptions. In short, they were experiments. It is crucial that they should be reassessed. Such evidence as we now have is not sufficient to condemn them but it is enough to shift the burden of proof.

It is no longer up to the sceptics to show that the permissive revolution was a mistake: it is for its increasingly beleaguered supporters to justify its continued incorporation in law and welfare provision. The bills are currently addressed to them.

The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.

A collection of Digby Anderson's columns, *Extra Dry*, is published today by the Social Affairs Unit, 2 Lord North St, London SW1, price £2.95.

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DEEP WATERS

The United Nations convention on the law of the sea has been open for signature for two years. The period comes to an end on Sunday. One hundred and forty-three governments have signed out of a potential of 162, and another nine have signed their intention of doing so. The British government has not.

In its view the convention's regime for mining the bed of the ocean outside all territorial limits is unacceptable as it stands. Because of that, and because the convention must be taken whole or not at all, the government is prepared to stand aloof from all the other provisions of the convention covering such matters as territorial zones, the continental shelf, navigation and rights of passage, conservation of marine resources - in all of which Britain as a maritime nation has a high interest, and towards the definition of which it played a leading role in the proceedings of the conference.

Britain stands aside with the United States and West Germany. Other nations with active deep-sea mining potential have signed, including the USSR, Japan, France, Canada and the Netherlands.

The mineral wealth of the deep seabed, in the form of concretions the size of potatoes containing nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese, was no sooner fully estimated than it was declared, in a florid phrase, "the common heritage of mankind". The concept was adopted by the United Nations. It means that those capable of raising the nodules to the surface should not sail away with the entire benefit from doing so; the benefit is to be spread; and for that some international regulatory authority is required.

So much was pretty well universally accepted, both as flowing naturally from the legal status of the oceans, which are incapable of being owned or annexed beyond territorial limits, and for the avoidance of conflict. Under pressure of dwindling reserves of recoverable minerals the outbreak of a kind of wet imperialism was feared, reminiscent of the Scramble for Africa. That prospect looked livelier fifteen years or so ago when the "Club of Rome" was making the running with its geometrical progressions, predicting that mankind would be running out of more or less everything early in the twenty-first century. The panic has subsided, but the case for a well-founded international regime for the eventual exploitation of these resources remains strong.

The regime which the United Nations elaborated is excessive. It is politically over-weight; it is given too ambitious a role in mining operations; it has too much power to tax and manage the market in these minerals; and it is too free to poach everyone's technology.

To the incoming United States administration in 1981 all this was anathema (although the outgoing administration had been largely instrumental in its compromise embodied in it). Neither that brand of internationalism nor that kind of commercial regulation was to its liking. Soon the United States broke with the conference and convention, and the President reserved for his country a go-it-alone position.

"Deep seabed mining remains a lawful exercise of the freedom of the high seas open to all nations," he declared. That embroidery upon Grotius rests on the proposition that the extra-territorial ocean and its floor are *res nullius*, the property of no one and therefore up for grabs. Alternatively, they are *res communis*, the property of all and exploitable only by common consent. The latter view is the better in law.

In this case inside looks better than outside. There are first of all the manifold benefits to a seafaring nation of the maritime parts of the convention. The government's advisers take a relaxed view about that, arguing that the provisions largely codify customary law and so their application will reach us anyway. But the convention contains also new and important rights and duties which may be regarded as contractual between the parties. And in any case the likelihood of challenge and litigation is greater for non-ratifying states.

As for mining, the admittedly overblown and restrictive nature of the regulatory and operating bodies envisaged is capable of modification in the hands of the preparatory commission which is in the early stages of its work. There is a common interest between the nations of the third world and the nations with the technology and financial resources to mine the seabed in achieving a commercially satisfactory context for exploitation. An apparatus that merely stifles the enterprise benefits no party, except a handful of states sitting on reserves of scarce minerals. Britain would be more effective playing a full part in the work of the preparatory commission than signalling from outside an unspoken and unreal intention to take international law into its own hands and mine despite them all.

The British government has not openly despaired of a workable deep-sea mining regime emerging from the maw of the United Nations. Nor has it mimicked President Reagan's declaration of independence. Wisely. The mining companies may find the prospective conditions imposed by the convention too onerous. But the alternative prospect of nationally staked claims, which would be challenged in the international court and contested politically and conceivably on the water, is no more attractive. Mining under the guns of the US Navy would not be favourable to investment on the prodigious scale required for this enterprise. The best way forward remains what it was, the establishment of a stable legal frame accorded universal recognition.

If that is so, the question for the British government is one of tactics. The convention does not come into force until sixty states have ratified, which may be ten years away. The present outlook in the minerals market puts commercial exploitation of the seabed well into the next century. How can Britain's influence for the achievement of a tolerable international regime be best applied during that interval? Is there better purchase inside or outside the organization (shades of Unesco), it being open to us to accede to the convention at a later date?

THE MAN IN THE WHITE COAT

Every Test team that wins succeeds entirely through its own efforts; when a team loses, however, it is very unusual if bad umpiring is not invoked to share some of the blame. The first thing to be said about England's performance at Bombay in the thirteenth Test they have played without a single win (a record run of consistent play for England) is that the team's batting in the first innings more or less settled the outcome of the match. The best umpire in the world (or the most indulgent) could scarcely have saved them. That said, it may be added that some of the decisions given against them looked decidedly odd.

Gavaskar, the Indian captain (wisely making no comment on the umpiring of this particular match) suggested afterwards that it might be time to abandon the practice of having Test matches presided over by umpires of the host country, and that instead neutral umpires should be used, chosen from a list drawn up by international agreement. India

suffered much worse in Pakistan not long ago, and the New Zealanders are having a rough time there at the moment.

The tradition of trusting the umpire of the host country is one of those civilised details which distinguish cricket from, for instance, international football. It would be sad to lose it, but once the trust has declined too far, it is unrealistic to maintain the mere forms. Politics and publicity have raised the pressures on everyone involved in Test cricket to a very high pitch, and teams cannot play their best. If they suspect that the dice are loaded against them. These tensions affect umpires too, and the convention of their infallibility has been undermined by the instant action replay. In most cases, including this one, there is no suggestion of intentional bias. It is more a matter of confusion or of inability to resist the psychological pressure of a jubilant team (and 20,000 spectators) shrieking "how's that?"

Lack of experience is the real problem, not chicanery. England

is almost the only nation with a considerable number of umpires used to standing regularly in first-class matches. The proposed neutral panel would have the effect of denying this body of experience to all Tests involving England. A panel chosen as individuals for service anywhere might avoid this difficulty, but would unavoidably have inevitable overtones from some national points of view. The expense of globetrotting umpires would be high, and the problem would still remain of tactfully intimating to an ageing panelist that the time had come for him to draw straps.

But discontent among players may be at a point where some form of panel arrangement is inevitable, to avoid worse conflicts. A more satisfactory long-term remedy would be an international scheme, developing an experiment at Lords a few years ago, which regrettably lapsed, to bring Commonwealth umpires to Britain for a season to gain experience, and to take it home with them.

Letters to Russia

From Miss Judy Levy
Sir, Items sent by registered post to the Soviet Union are attached to reply-paid cards. However, the Soviet postal authorities operate a successful Catch 22 system: should an item sent by registered post, from the UK to the USSR, fail to be delivered the Soviet postal authorities declare it is incumbent upon the proposed recipient of the registered item to write confirming the non-receipt of said item.

As the Russian postal service is so erratic, and the regular service so often fails to arrive, it is to the registered service one turns to ensure safe arrival of letters.

Perhaps readers would be kind enough to enlighten me as to the logic and reasoning of the situation.

Yours faithfully,
JUDY LEVY,
19 Shaftesbury Avenue,
Kenton,
Harrow,
Middlesex,
November 16.

Technology gap

From Professor P. G. Moore
Sir, The letter from Professor Burnet, of Edinburgh, on information technology you published on November 21, was timely. It reinforced the view held by many of us working in business schools that the current gap lies not so much in the area of hardware technology and the scientific aspects of new languages, but in our national inability to translate what already

exists into meaningful uses that have a commercial return.

For this purpose, the principal area of current deficiency lies in people skilled in the software, systems application and implementation sides of the industry.

There already exists in the UK a substantial pool of graduates and others skilled in disciplines not directly connected to IT, many of whom could be converted into information technologists, interpreting the latter in the broad sense. It would be relatively easy and inexpensive to carry out this conversion task in conjunction with existing institutions if some national lead could be given.

I fear that the continued emphasis on the further basic research required in this field - undoubtedly necessary in the long run - may leave development and implementation high and dry in the UK for other nations to pick up and garner the harvest that awaits skillful exploitation.

Yours faithfully,
Y. G. MOORE, Principal,
London Business School,
Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, NW1,
November 22.

Public spending

From Mr Robert Wright
Sir, I agree with William Plowden (November 15) that the best way to improve the processes by which the Government sets expenditure priorities is to build on existing institutions. But I cannot see how reliance on any central unit to order priorities can solve the problem.

Indeed, over centralization contributes to the problem.

Perhaps we can learn something from the Canadians in this respect. Each year the Canadian Cabinet collectively decides broad priorities between objectives and splits up the overall budget accordingly into smaller pots (or "envelopes") for each major policy sector (social development, economic development, defence, overseas, etc.).

The pots are then handed to committees made up of the ministers of the departments pursuing programmes in the relevant policy sectors. In these sectoral committees ministers have to determine priorities and fund programmes whilst remaining within the overall financial ceiling imposed by the pot handed down from the Cabinet.

If someone takes a larger share, someone else must take a smaller share. Who better to make such decisions than those who are responsible, unlike the Treasury or the CPSR (Central Policy Review Staff), for the outcome?

The Treasury still has an important part to play in such a system. They advise the Cabinet on the overall budget, do the bookkeeping for the expenditure committees and brief the committee members collectively on the expenditure implications of the options before them. Priority setting, however, is properly decentralized to those who are responsible for delivering results in accordance with the priorities so determined.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WRIGHT,
15 Durlston Road,
Kingston-upon-Thames,
Surrey,
November 16.

Good neighbours go unrewarded

From Mr P. F. Poulton

Sir, I refer to the recent announcement that British insurance companies are to raise the premiums charged to homeowners by a substantial amount, due to the rise in burglary, etc.

While I understand the reason for this, from a business point of view, what I cannot understand is the lack of clear thinking on the part of the insurance companies.

Together with many other volunteers we civilians, for our own good, have banded together in groups and defined our areas into neighbourhood watch areas, working with the local police crime-prevention teams to help fight crime.

It works; statistics supplied by our police, after one year in operation, prove that beyond doubt. The neighbourhood watch scheme grows daily.

The insurance companies are becoming from this public action, but the British Insurance Association are doing nothing to help us. I wrote to the association twice for help, first to help pay for neighbourhood watch signs, at present paid for by the volunteers (except in the Metropolitan area). Again I wrote the association suggesting that member insurance companies do not put up premiums to those persons actively engaged in neighbourhood watch areas, which act as an incentive to further volunteers.

The answer to both letters was negative.

We are all asked by our Government to actively support neighbourhood watch and our police, and we are answering the call. It would appear the insurance companies are not at all interested even if, in the long run, they will benefit from our efforts.

Sincerely,
PHILIP F. POULTON,
94 Wolsley Road,
Moortown,
Middlesbrough,
November 25.

Famine in Ethiopia

From Dr W. E. Ormerod

Sir, Those who have studied the zones of Africa south of the Sahara will not be unanimous in support of Dr Hiskett's view (November 20) that Nigeria has avoided the famine that afflicts Ethiopia because of its use of Western techniques of agriculture.

His statement that agricultural and livestock productivity of the Nigerian Sahel has improved spectacularly over the last thirty years cannot go unchallenged. Rising population, the introduction of new crops and the use of fertilizers have, in Hausaland, brought unstable land into production and disrupted traditionally stable agricultural practice.

Disease control increased the size of the national herd until the mid-1960s when drought began to take its toll; since then land degradation has continued as in all other Sahelian countries.

Statistics are unavailable or unreliable; but one important point emerges: thirty years ago Sahelian Nigeria exported a large surplus of groundnuts; today there is a deficit. It is untrue that northern Nigeria has been unaffected by drought and famine. It has been affected to the same extent as the whole Sahelian zone, but Nigeria, with its great resources, has been in a better position than others to contain the situation.

It is unhelpful and misleading to gloss over the severe problems of northern Nigeria and to ignore the unpalatable conclusion that drought, the Sahel, in Ethiopia and particularly in northern Nigeria is essentially the result of uncontrolled land use which has resulted in its degradation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. E. ORMEROD,
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,
Keppel Street, WC1,
November 22.

Proof positive

From Mr Gavin Ewart

Sir, As so much trouble is always caused when BBC and other commentators (as now in India) criticise overseas umpires for wishful decisions when batsmen are given out as caught in the slips or when playing "bat-and-pad" shots to slow bowlers, might it not be possible to design a bat with an electronic device that would produce a loud and characteristic bleep if it were touched by the ball?

There would then be no doubt as to whether contact had been made and a good deal of bad feeling would be avoided.

Yours etc,
GAVIN EWART,
97 Kentworth Court,
Lower Richmond Road, SW15,
December 3.

Strategic wealth

From Professor J. Nitting

Sir, Your leading article (November 15) on "Oddities of the stockpile", following from an earlier report that the Government has decided it is no longer necessary to hold a strategic metal stockpile, raises some important issues which are worthy of further consideration.

The metals which have been stockpiled are those for which we have no indigenous resources or other readily available external sources should disruption of our normal supply develop. They are metals which are critical to the production of high-temperature alloys used in aircraft engines and chemical engineering plant. They are also compounded to produce special alloys for cutting tools used in the whole of our engineering industries.

Human life and Christian conscience

From the Bishop of Norwich

Sir, Are we to infer that the letter from the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (November 29) is the official and unanimous mind of the members of this honoured royal college?

Referring to Down's syndrome and other handicaps, he calls for more embryo research and finishes with a warning:

Those who would deny the possibility of preventing these terrible handicaps must bear a heavy responsibility if the recommendation of the Warnock Committee on embryo research up to 14 days is banned.

Professor MacNaughton makes no reference to the work of Professor Jerome Lejeune, who first established that Down's syndrome was due to an error in the chromosomes and who publicly stated that successful research is being done, and should be done, without the cultivation of human embryos for research (see House of Commons Hansard, November 23, Sir Bernard Braine, MP, col 541).

Mr Patrick Nicholls, MP (col 541) touched on the central moral point, when he said:

Even if Professor Lejeune were wrong, and the only way of carrying out research was by experimenting on embryos, does my Hon Friend agree that if the development of human life is wrong, the fact that a benefit might flow from it, cannot justify it?

In our earlier debate, and with his usual lucidity and humanity Lord Denning asked the key question about the nature and status of the embryo, when speaking in this House (House of Lords Hansard, October 31, col 542):

Is it a thing? God forbid! It is not a thing... I would suggest that the only logical point at which the law could start is that the child, the human being, starts at the moment of conception and fertilization... From that moment there is a living human being which is entitled to protection just as much as the law protects a child... If [the law] does protect it in this way, it cannot be sold or bought; it cannot be destroyed; it cannot be experimented upon for research or the like.

Not only is the Christian conscience of the nation being even more widely aroused, in compassionate concern for the life of defenceless human embryos, but men and women of the broadest ethical and moral principles are beginning to realise that to open this Pandora's box of genetic engineering is to endanger the very basis of human and family life as we know it.

The reports of experimentation which are coming in from both Scottish and English hospitals clearly indicate, as the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Norman Fowler, suggested (House of Commons Hansard, November 23, col 529) that interim arrangements for the introduction of legislation may be necessary at once.

Student grants

From Mr I. D. Coult

Sir, In the current controversy over university grants much is heard about the burden this will place on parents. Very little has been said about the university costs that give rise to the need to increase income. Possibly, now that parents will be more directly involved in the financing of universities they will take more interest in how the universities spend the money.

I am member of a university council, but regrettably have been unable to obtain any cutback in the level of non-teaching expenditure. In a university with 4,000 students we have recently increased the number of porters and security men to 55. This is the same number of police that a town of 33,000 people will have to be satisfied with.

It may seem excessive that our adult students are to be given supplementary security at this level. In addition, we have 23 groundsman and eight boilermen. We have five students on full-time sabbatical paid leave whereas a college of further education of the same number of students would have one or two.

We have another range of staff concerned with the counselling of students at a cost of several tens of thousands of pounds per annum.

University challenge

From Dr A. H. Seville

Sir, Your central pages today (November 29) make three separate references to universities. Your second leader on student grants, in attempting to justify arbitrary and sudden cuts, queries the efficiency of universities, at a time when they have never before made such good use of resources.

Next, your first leader accuses universities of harbouring communists who manipulate and subvert them, at a time when universities

and the Government would be wise to put a moratorium on such experiments now.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE NORVIC,
House of Lords,
November 29.

From the Reverend Dr N. M. de S. Cameron

Sir, Professor MacNaughton (November 29) writing with all the authority of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, avers that a heavy responsibility rests on those who would ban the experimental use of the human embryo, in the light of the major opportunities for research which "human material" presents. The real question is what "human material" is meant to mean.

My toe-nail clippings are "human material", but so am I. I doubt whether they deserve any kind of protection from experimental use, but I rather think that I do.

And what is the human embryo? There is really no doubt at all that the product of conception in any species, *Homo sapiens* included, is a small but genetically complete new member of that species, requiring only nurture in an hospitable environment to bring it to maturity. Even in humans, gestation *in utero* is unnecessary, and current research on the development of an artificial placenta will very long prove this before our very eyes.

That is why there is an element of dissimulation in Professor MacNaughton's stigmatising of objections to embryo vivisection as arising out of "particular moral and religious views", as if the grounds of opposition to the practice were in some sense arbitrary or the fruit of some sectarian dogma. This is by no means the case.

There is not the slightest doubt that what Warnock recommends is the licensing of deleterious and involuntary experimentation upon human subjects. Whatever benefits may be held to be likely to accrue from such research (and your correspondent is altogether too sweeping in his dismissal of alternative research options, such as the use of animal embryos), what price are we being asked to pay? Every civilised medical tradition has set itself against the experimental use of human subjects and the lone exception in our own century continues to chill the spine by its very name.

In consigning the weakest and smallest of our fellow humans to be bred in laboratories and to live and die in the aid of experimental results we would degrade also ourselves and our every claim to respect the rights of man, and we would accept the logic of the slave and the white supremacist and the Jew-baiter, whose claim has all along been that, for what we deem to be good and worthy purposes, there are fellow members of the species whose rights can be erased so that they may become the means to our own ends.

Yours faithfully,
N. M. de S. CAMERON,
Rutherford House,
17 Claremont Park, Edinburgh.

In the local government field much stress has been laid on value for money audits and much has been achieved in that direction. Perhaps the time has now come and the universities should be subjected to the same discipline.

Yours faithfully,
IAN COUTTS,
2 The Close,
Norwich, Norfolk.

From Mr L. W. Jackson

Sir, I am a Conservative supporter mainly because I think they are likely to do the country less harm than the other lot.

As such, I find it most distasteful to learn of so many Tory MPs buying in full chase after the Secretary of State for Education and Science over extra costs to a few tens of thousands of privileged parents for the support of their student offspring. Those who are affected should be well able to afford it if not it does not say much for their sense of priorities.

This massive and unedifying objection is a sure vote-loser with the bulk of the electorate. The protesters should think again.

Yours faithfully,
L. W. JACKSON,
40 Ashfield Crescent,
Billingham,
Nr Wigan, Lancashire.

are politically stable to the point of dullness.

And finally you give space for Professor Howard, in an article on Churchill, to state that those concerned about tenure are, like the miners, not concerned with adding to the nation's wealth - and this at a time when the professional and vocational contribution of universities is at a height.

Sir, your new technology has not done away with the stereotype.

ADRIAN SEVILLE,
Academic Registrar,
The City University,
Northampton Square, EC1.

In times of national adversity strategic metals increase far more rapidly in price than does gold and therefore we have to draw on our gold reserves to buy them if we wish to maintain our industrial activity.

Would it not be better, therefore, to maintain and add to our stockpile of strategic metals whilst their prices are reasonable? Would it not be better to count these strategic metals, together with gold, as part of our national wealth reserve rather than let the stockpile be looked upon as a nest-egg to be raided by the Department of Trade and Industry to balance its books in times of financial stringency?

Yours faithfully,
JACK NUTTING
(Chairman, Executive Committee,
The Materials Forum),
The University of Leeds,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Master mariner left in lurch

From Captain William Cooper

Sir, Recently you published some features on the poor state of engineering in Britain. Last week I visited the library of the British Council in Rome to consult a standard engineering text.

This is a big library, very well staffed, but I found to my dismay that the entire stock of engineering books could have been fitted in a briefcase. Worse: in an adjoining room was an exhibition marking 400 years of publishing by the Cambridge University Press. In this exhibition were many learned books on subjects I would have considered non-existent from a practical point of view, but not one book on engineering in any form.

Throughout the library there were shelves of obscure poets' works, plays by dramatists, long since forgotten, works on flower arranging, knitting, and books of expensive reproductions of works of art, the originals of which are on display round the corner. And a staff, apparently consisting of narrowly educated arts graduates, dedicated to the erudite taste of taking in each others' intellectual washings.

I understand the British Council exists at taxpayers' expense to represent British culture abroad. An essential part of our culture, the part on which the whole structure of our art, literature and prosperity depends, is the achievement of our engineers, nautical structural, electrical and so on. The British Council are at present failing to discharge their function.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM COOPER, Master
British Shipyard, Well,
At Fiumara Grande,
Italy.
November 19.

Well remembered

From Mr James Wilkinson

Sir, The Engineering Council have scored an own goal with their full-page advertisement (November 28) pleading, among other things, for engineers to be memorialised in Westminster Abbey.

The council seem not to be aware that the engineering profession is well represented in the abbey. Among the commemorated there are James Watt (a bust in St Paul's Chapel), George Stephenson (window on the north side of the choir), and Isambard Kingdom Brunel (window on the south side of the nave).

Thomas Telford is buried in the nave while Benjamin Baker, Richard Trevithick, Sir John Wolfe-Barry - the architect of Tower Bridge - and Sir Henry Royce are commemorated in windows on the north side of the nave.

It would be interesting to know which engineers of more recent vintage the Engineering Council think deserve an abbey memorial.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WILKINSON,
31 Elm Bank Gardens,
Barnes, SW13,
November 30.

Licensed friendship

From Mr L. W. N. Camp

Sir, Your leader today (November 30) argues in favour of the Government's proposal to empower local authorities to set their own dog licence fees because it will allow them to set fees sufficient to cover the particular local costs of "measures to make the place safe and decent against dogs".

Yet I am hardly aware of any such measures, apart from street-cleaning (which, after all, goes on for other reasons, too) and a certain amount of rounding up of strays.

As I suspect, the true reason for this proposal is that it will divert dog-owners' anger from the Government to local authorities, may I accuse your leader of barking up the wrong tree?

Yours faithfully,
LUCIAN W. N. CAMP,
44 Howitt Road, NW3,
November 30.

From Mr John A. Huntley

Sir, It would take an Old Etonian, dripping wet from the Think Tank, to resurrect the emotive issue of dog licences. Imagine the proud glow of awareness that the licence cost more to collect than it raised in revenue. Perhaps the under-secretary thinks he can solve the unemployment problem - there will be dog wardens, dog vans, dog inquisitors, even dog exterminators.

There will have to be a quango, paid £90 a day plus expenses, to advise on whether the partially-sighted qualify for exemption; lawyers will have to define a sheepdog - perhaps a dog that chases sheep.

Perhaps there will be exemption for old-age pensioners and exemption for those on supplementary benefit etc.

Come, come, Mr Waldegrave, exercise that brain. Abolish the dog licence and you may take the credit.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN A. HUNTLEY,
Boxwell Farm,
Tisbury,
Gloucestershire,
November 29.

From Miss Meriel Biggs

Sir, No licence for those predators who eat my goldfish, scratch up my seed beds, pluck out my struggling onion sets (never their own), prey on nestling and fledgling songbirds, and enrage my founding dog, whose street manners, astonishingly, happen to exemplify?

Is there no latter-day Douglas to bell the cats - humanely?

Yours faithfully,
MERIEL BIGGS,
Farnaby's,
Elgin Road,
Weybridge,
Surrey,
December 2.

THE ARTS

John Drummond, former director of the Edinburgh Festival, was yesterday appointed to the hot seat of the BBC's Controller, Music - with wider potential powers than the man he succeeds next year, Robert Ponsonby: report and interview by Nicholas Kenyon

A chance to unite the warring tribes of sound and vision

John Drummond: "there's an enormous amount to be done"



Council. On the managerial problems of co-ordinating musical activities in the BBC he will say only that "there has been a very dangerous feeling of separation. In the Sixties I think we felt radio music producers had a contempt for what television was doing, and television producers thought the radio music people were involved in some kind of very private broadcasting. I think first of all each side needs to understand each other better - they do, you know, in the regions, where the departments tend to be much closer together. Half the trouble in the BBC comes because departments are physically so far apart."

On the touchy subject of what kind of contemporary music Drummond is likely to support and promote at the BBC he is again cautious. He is reluctant to name names. But can one presume he would not follow a Great British Music Festival line? "I think you can presume that quite clearly. Of course one has loyalty to nationalities but one has a greater loyalty to the art one represents. I don't think I'm any more likely to be persuaded of the importance of certain secondary talents than my predecessors were." And are there still the causes to be fought for in this area that made William Glock's controllership such an exhilarating period? "First, because evidence has been given once of vitality and adventure it doesn't mean that it's never going to need to be given again. OK, it was thrilling to have Harewood do the Boulez year in Edinburgh, with *Pli selon pli*, and William do the first *Gruppen* in London, but don't kid me that there's no need for another *Pli selon pli* in London. In many ways one realizes how little advance there has actually been. There's an enormous amount to be done."

The BBC has appointed John Drummond, 58, director of the Edinburgh Festival from 1978 to 1983 and previously assistant Head of Music and Arts in BBC Television, to be its next Controller, Music, in succession to Robert Ponsonby. The appointment goes against Ponsonby's stated desire to be succeeded by "a musician from within radio", but follows the BBC's tradition of choosing for the controllership an outside figure of stature and flair, who will be capable of advancing the reputation of the Proms and public concerts as well as maintaining the BBC's delicate and often turbulent relationship with the musical profession.

Drummond is a television man, though he has broadcast often for radio as a freelance, and the most interesting aspect of his appointment is that he joins the BBC very soon, in February 1985, a full nine months before Ponsonby's retirement on December 1. He has been commissioned to produce a detailed report on the BBC's provision of music on both radio and television. This will be widely interpreted as an attempt to prove that the two departments of radio and television music, which have drifted far apart, can be brought together and co-ordinated under a single Controller.

Drummond's name had been mentioned as a probable Head of Music and Arts, Television, after the abrupt departure of Richard Somerset Ward earlier this year and, while it is highly unlikely that he would have accepted that post on its own (and BBC Television says it is proceeding with an appointment), the prospect of a major restructuring of television departments under Bill Cotton and Brian Wenham leaves open the possibility that Drummond's report could acquire for him

a newly coherent and newly expanded control of all the BBC's musical resources. He may well also want to take back under his direct control the radio production departments concerned with music, which Aubrey Singer (in a last stab in the back to radio music before he returned to television) put into a Radio 3 music department. That could lead to lively conflict internally. And the final issue of the report could well be money: after the next licence fee increase, will the BBC have the means to support serious music in the way it demands?

Drummond is understandably saying nothing about these possibilities at present. But he does defend himself from the accusation of not being a broadcaster. "As it happens, I have more broadcasting experience than either Robert or William Glock when they were appointed. I know there'll be criticism from some quarters, but I do think I know my way around the BBC and the business of broadcasting." Will he bring the priorities of television's musical coverage to music on radio? "What, you mean things like intelligibility? Or not talking down to your audience? Or occasionally being relevant? Things like that? I do think that if you're in the business of communication you ought to consider this sort of thing. Of course in television it is harder to find the right tone of voice. One of

the things about streamed broadcasting is that you have sorted out who you are talking to. But that has its drawbacks too, in that you're not reaching out any further." Drummond's mother was a lieder singer, and "there was always music around", but he read history at Cambridge. Ironically, Drummond turned down his first offer of a job "for £600 a year (not rising) to work as an assistant to one Robert Ponsonby who was then director of the Edinburgh Festival, in order to join the BBC as a general trainee for £625 a year (rising slowly). I had my chance in Edinburgh, but fortunately that was later, after I had learnt a great deal." Through getting to know How Weidson and Humphrey

Burton during a stint in Paris, Drummond became involved with the most creative group of television producers the BBC has had, in the halcyon days when there seemed to be both ideas and money to match: Drummond, Burton, Barrie Gavin and Walter Todds planned programmes, and Drummond made his name with documentaries such as that on the second Leeds Piano Competition in 1966. When John Colshaw came to head the department, Drummond moved sideways into other arts programmes, pursuing other disciplines he talks about with quite as much passion and enthusiasm as music - especially dance and architecture (he produced *The Spirit*



L'illusion: Gérard Desarthe (left) as the braggart with Marc Delsaert as Clindor

Paris theatre Majestic and magical

From our viewpoint, the Paris theatre may seem a firmly barricaded, nationalist stronghold; but chauvinism is not the same suffocating thing as insularity, and least of all when it comes to allowing international access to its most sacred treasures. Can one imagine the RSC and the National Theatre simultaneously engaging two foreign directors to show us how to play Shakespeare? That is more or less what has happened in Paris, where the dominating events of the past month have been Giorgio Strehler's production of Corneille's *L'illusion* and this week's opening at the Comédie-Française of Racine's *Bérénice* directed by Klaus Michael Grüber - the first German ever to direct at the Comédie.

As a co-production with the Festival d'Automne, *Bérénice* appears in the course of a wide-ranging international programme. But the great new international landmark in the Paris scene is Strehler's Odéon-based *L'illusion*. Now into its second year, this is a State-subsidized venture aiming to establish a coherent centre in Europe's theatrical Babel, by-passing the cultural tariff walls to draw the best European talents into the service of masterpieces that belong to all European citizens.

The whole enterprise represents a mighty advance in parallel to the route pioneered by Peter Brook at the Bouffes du Nord (where, alas, nothing is happening until the unveiling of Brook's *Mahabharata* next summer).

Strehler's present production has strong affinities with *The Tempest*, with which he launched the Odéon regime last year. *L'illusion* is another testament to the healing powers of art, occupying a zone between theatre and magic, and dramatizing a fable of parental loss and reunion through the agency of a supernaturally gifted stage manager. Pridamant, a sorrowing father, comes in search of his runaway son to the magician, Alcandre, who obligingly conjures up a series of visions showing the son, Clindor, serving a braggart captain, paying court to two girls, and then meeting his death in a duel. At which point Corneille springs his masterstroke, by

bringing all the characters back as a company of actors counting up the night's take; and old Pridamant's cry of bereavement changes to the hardly less anguished howl "Mon fils comédien!" Unlike *The Tempest*, *L'illusion* dates from the beginning of its author's career and was written (in 1636) with the explicit propagandist intention of defending the theatre against powerful clerical opposition, as a morally beneficial public service. In that sense, the play restates the theatre's mandate, as Jonson did in the puppet scene of *Bartholomew Fair*. In another sense, it joins company with Calderón's *Life is a Dream* and other baroque works that exploit paradoxes of shadow and substance. In yet another, it is a robustly plotted and often uproariously funny comedy of intrigue, and altogether the last thing you would have expected from the author of *Le Cid*.

It is this basic entertainment element that has been sacrificed to Strehler's vision, which otherwise yields as beautiful a production as I have ever seen, and thoroughly earns the comparisons that have been drawn between the Odéon stage and Plato's cave.

Strehler's Milan-based team - Ezio Frigerio, Luisa Spinelli and Fiorenzo Carpi - present a sequence of shimmering and dissolving stage pictures whose power derives as much from their moral discipline (they are expressing a truth which cannot be approached too closely) as from their simply decorative quality. Alcandre's grotto - a massive exercise in baroque geometry - opens up for the first vision like a camera shutter, revealing Clindor and his master silhouetted against an open sky to Monteverdi-like cadences, both reflected in a modern high-tech stage floor.

The lighting exceeds in sophistication anything since Svoboda, whose "mirror-screen" reappears on Strehler's stage in the form of atmospheric, blurred backdrops that undergo positive and negative light reversals, also softly reflecting the actors in their wasted silks and jewel-encrusted fared coats, and finally throwing back an image of the applauding house as Clindor welcomes his father on to the

stage. Gérard Desarthe plays Alcandre as a priestly, black-gowned figure, bald as an egg, who than returns, unrecognizably transformed, as the braggart Matamore. You are thus encouraged to view him both as mage and as a theatrical *tabula rasa* - who than demonstrates the wisdom of his profession by assuming the most foolish character in the play. This majestic production departs for Italy in January, so intending British spectators should move fast.

Besides his attachments to the Berlin Schaubühne, Klaus Michael Grüber is a former Milan colleague of Strehler, which adds to one's stupefaction on stumbling out of his *Bérénice* (three hours, no interval). Approaching the piece with the most extreme reverence, he has well and truly wrung its neck. Upon a stage (by Gilles Aillaud) variously suggesting a pottery kiln and a gaudy Pompeian bath-house, Racine's principals arrive like sleep-walkers, and deliver the verse in a dead monotone and at a snail's pace that kills the rhythms, never mind the caesurae. Periodically they nuzzle into their confidantes' shoulders, or flop over a large boulder in the kiln area; adding no small comic point to lines like "J'ai couru chez la reine" or "Laissez-moi le temps de respirer".

There are moments when the text takes hold of Ludmila Mikael's *Bérénice*, and the stage briefly pulsates with desolate passion. But you have the impression that there will be a severe directorial note for every such lapse into vitality. Faced with this otherwise incomprehensible act of carnage I can only relate it to Grüber's past career as a director of Beckett. Beckett is often compared to Racine; and Grüber appears to have seized an occasion for repaying the compliment with a piece that could be described as Racine's *Endgame*. Nothing happens for five acts: within the first minutes we are told that it is all over. The fact that Racine's characters are alive, and that the piece offers a marvellously sustained corridor of dramatic poetry, evidently occurred less strongly to the director than to a rebellious audience.

Irving Wardle

The Human Voice Gate, Latchmere

Something of a relief, after *Orpheus* last week, to come to a piece of Cocteau's that (to put it mildly) deals with human emotions. Even if they only come from one human, the woman speaking, for an hour or so, on the telephone to her lover who has left her. That Sussannah York at the Latchmere, while to this tremendous task bringing every resource for sustaining the tension and wringing the heart, fails to convince us there is someone on the other end of the line is not, I think, a fair criticism: this is essentially a monologue. But there are tantalizing clues to what the man felt, and herein lies the interpretation.

Miss York and her director, Simone Benmussa, believe it was a genuine affair, passionate

London theatre

but not permanent. "Sweet, not lasting", and that when she says "you are bright and you love me" ("tu es malade") in the original) she is not deluding herself. His prolonging of the conversation is not, as one occasionally suspects, just to see how much he can make her feel. At the beginning, though, she is a murdered woman - which indeed she is - she becomes, on receiving his first call, the sophisticated, attractive person he loved.

Cocteau calls her "a mediocre victim". But despite the unusually abstract setting - no bed, no walls, just white screens on which Miss York vertically luxuriates sometimes as though they were her lonely sheets - she is, in this actress's hands, a real person, intelligent and sensitive. Her world's boulevard qualities, her rich lawyer lover with a manservant, her pampered daily round of shopping and

dining out, almost ring false. So, indeed, do stagey directorial touches like running his gloves critically down her body and the repeated mannerism of addressing the phone receiver face to face, as it were.

Miss York's mid-point breakdown, her lovely face becoming a grief-contorted mask before our eyes, is all the more terrifying for that. And, among the other calls on her virtuosity, this work is virtually a concerto for the left hand (the right usually holding the receiver), pleasing, arguing, firmly insisting that she is all right before unhysterically describing her suicide attempt. Most memorably, she lets the phone ring three times before answering as if to savour the anticipation, the last time, she leaves it still longer, terrified to begin the dialogue that means the end.

Anthony Masters

Concert

Oslo PO/Yansons Barbican

Since Grieg founded and conducted the Oslo Philharmonic more than 100 years ago, it has burgeoned into one of the great orchestras of northern Europe. Recently under Otto Klemperer (whose conducting we should experience far more often in London), and now under the direction of Mariss Yansons from Leningrad, its character has been strengthened and its stature confirmed.

The strings have a brilliance of ensemble which is no mere patina of unity, but one that springs from fully engaged energy. They can breathe with barely audible sighs for the start of Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette* Overture, or they can fold into the slow growth of the Largo of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony.

The woodwind and brass, too, take little for granted; they can gurgle like a fairground

organ if required, or form a hard, sharp rind on the outside edges of one of Shostakovich's lacerating string unisons. They can, in short, do extreme things extremely well, and they can equally successfully sustain and reinvigorate broad musical argument. Yansons, trained by Mravinsky, was in his element with the Shostakovich. The opening of the piece spoke immediately of music smarting under the lashes of its idea. They dug their nails into its taut rhythmic pacing, and underpinned the Largo's occasional longeurs with cello playing of unusually distinctive character and tenacity. Where double entendre masquerades as single entendre in this work, extremity becomes, as it should, not only the means but the mode, and did so utterly convincingly.

However, such bombast sits ill in the lap of Grieg. Jens Harald Bratlie, a fine accompanist and chamber musician, curiously reduced himself to the role of mere orator in

the A minor Piano Concerto. It was, indeed, a concerto without much "con": the orchestra's feverish activity and heated solo detail seemed compensation for, rather than converse with, the piano's alternately over-languid or savagely percussive eloquence. To match Bratlie's extremes of rhetoric, Yansons allowed his orchestra to sit and preen in the purling Adagio, and to make the Finale a vicious battle for survival.

Hilary Finch

London debuts The sense of duty

The piano duo team of the New Zealander Richard Mapp and the Canadian Jocelyn Abbott have a dutiful rather than an inspired approach to the repertoire. Stravinsky's two sets of "Easy Pieces" of 1915 and 1917 were crisply articulated, and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* had some panache. However, treble parts were often hard-driven, with a consistently unpleasant tone in the climaxes of phrases. A much greater variety of sonority is needed to bring these works to life.

The Uruguayan pianist Carlos Cebro is an individualist whose approach to the instrument is primarily colouristic. His relaxed style in *Junio al Jagan* by Cluzeau Mortet provided some welcome sunny images for a wet evening, and Carlos Guicci's *Candome* was brought to life with exuberantly sharp and rhythmic passage-work.

The Attwood String Quartet is two years old, and is a vivacious ensemble. Perhaps the quartet's performance of Dvořák's "American" was a little too energized, the first violin tensely over-projecting his part (thus highlighting a number of slight lapses in intonation), but the overall effect was disciplined. Nevertheless, the second violin and viola were relegated to too great an extent, this distorting balance.

Aperto features two wind players, a soprano, Dorothy Cooper, and the pianist Victoria Loeck; the two were also making individual debuts at their recent recital. Miss Cooper's voice has a pure

timbre, which was well suited to the plaintive ballad "La Belle Dame sans merci" by Stanford. However, her intonation was not always secure in passing notes. Myahud's "The Devil and the Ploughman" was a quintessentially different encore, but here Miss Cooper's enunciation and her low notes were a little tired. Miss Loeck's accompaniments were always beautifully scaled, her tone colours ideally complementing James Dowser's first-rate flute playing.

South East Arts presented a recital by the four winners of the 1984 Young Musicians' Platform award and gave each a short programme. The clarinetist Anne Scolding conveyed the mysterious pathos of Weber's *Grand Duo concertante* with an almost exotic refinement; her pianissimo playing is ear-catching. The flautist Nicholas Vallis needed directly evocative music in which to shine, pan-pipes in Honnegger's *Danse de la chevre* creating an idyllic atmosphere.

Eva-Marie Alexanders's piano playing has a communicative singing tone, but melodies frequently sounded self-consciously expressive. Liszt's *Fuße d'Obermann* needed more shape. The soprano Tracey Chadwell's voice appears to be limited to one timbre, and she does not respect phrase endings. Two songs by Reger and Macnab were more successful, and in the former's "Mei Bun" there was some charming characterization.

James Methuen-Campbell

Television

Evidence of doubt

Crew members of two RUC Landrovers patrolling the Falls Road, Belfast, on the morning of July 8, 1981, told an inquest that the scene was one of riot with petrol bombs raining down on their vehicles and beer barrels being rolled in front of them. The inquest was on Mrs Norah McCabe, 33-year-old mother of three, who was struck by a PVC bullet that morning and who died from her fearful head injuries the following day.

After seeing a video film taken by a French Canadian, Jean-Pierre Plouffe, at the time of the incident - which revealed neither petrol bombers, beer barrels nor gangs - the jury discounted the police evidence and found there was no legitimate target.

Last week the RUC, who had denied firing PVC bullets anywhere near the street in which Mrs McCabe was hit, agreed to pay her family substantial damages and admitted there was no evidence that she was other than an innocent person, but did not admit guilt. The Director of Public Prosecutions has said that no police are to be prosecuted.

The video was shown in Yorkshire's First Tuesday documentary programme last night. It showed the vehicles had free passage and that the leading vehicle swerved towards the street where Mrs McCabe was hit, a manoeuvre denied by the police at the inquest. The

sounds of shots being fired are recorded on the soundtrack.

Mr Plouffe said that at the time of the incident, which followed the death of the fourth hunger-striker, there were no petrol bombs in sight, just the usual stone-throwing and banging of dustbin lids. An eye-witness confirmed this testimony.

Since the incident, the officer in command of the patrol, Chief Supt James Crutchley, has been promoted to Assistant Chief Constable. His commanding officer, Sir John Hermon, declined to appear on last night's programme to reply to what Mr McCabe called "another miscarriage of justice".

Stars of the Roller Skate Disco, on BBC1, was a morbid dramatic exercise by Michael Hastings, directed by Alan Parker. Its subject was teenage unemployment and it posited a situation where teenagers attend a state-provided skating rink where they are able to keep up their skills between describing vicious crimes on their state-provided skates and generally going nowhere.

Its chief character, played by Perry Benson, last seen circumnavigating the rink at night and bleeding to death from slashed wrists, was good but there was no message other than despair and only the most clumsy genuflection towards Orwell's 1984.

Dennis Hackett

20 dying days to Christmas.



As you look forward to Christmas, spare a thought for thousands of old people in under-developed countries throughout the world. Living in poverty and suffering from the devastating effects of famine, drought and disease, they need your help desperately.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Party time for insurance brokers

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Insurance brokers were riding high in the market yesterday alongside the merger announcement from Reed Stenhouse and Alexander and Alexander Services.

Of the seven other brokers listed on the main London market, five were trading at new share peaks. C E Heath jumped 27p to 548p, Minet Holdings gained 8p to 206p, Sedgwick Group sped 20p higher to 335p, Stewart Wrightson rose 25p to 485p and Willis Faber went 20p better to 548p.

Apart from the renewal of bid excitement in the sector, City men are also looking eagerly towards 1985 and 1986 earnings prospects.

Analysts at W Greenwell, the stockbroker, say: "There's a definite hardening of reinsurer premium rates following the withdrawal of capacity in the past year. The insurance market cycle is moving in favour of the London brokers."

And Laing & Crutshank's analyst Mr Vernon Partridge

says: "The scene is much more encouraging for London brokers than it has been for years and years. It's a professional's market now, and that means London." On that basis of trading enthusiasm, chances of more takeover activity look like the icing on the cake for share prices.

Some analysts are sceptical of bid activity - most British brokers have the tie-ups they

Even before the Bank of England has stated its desired numbers in the new gilt market, traders are speculating that there will be room for just three inter-broker dealers to serve possibly a score of market makers. The figure appears small but under the US system, which Britain is about to adopt, there are only about half a dozen serving 39 market makers.

need with American firms, and vice versa - but Mr Philip Olsen, at Kluat & Aitken,

suggests there is still a chance of further bids.

He says: "Given the coming growth in earnings for the sector, this could be the right time to get into the insurance market." Both Citicorp, the leading US bank, and American Express have made known their desires in this area.

Which broker will be next - if, indeed, there will be more bids - is difficult to spot. Minet is tied up fairly securely with the American firm Corroon & Black, which has 20 per cent, and St Paul, which has 25.9 per cent. Willis Faber is virtually family controlled.

Away from this action, the stock market was suffering from hangover symptoms after Monday's British Telecom party.

Although trading was moderately active, prices were inclined to drift lower as still cash-rich institutional investors continued to contemplate their moves now that BT has absorbed much less of their cash than once expected.

But if the market generally was sluggish there was still considerable activity in BT. The shares were at one time 2p higher at 94p before closing 1p down at 91p.

Trading in BT options started yesterday and swamped the market. Activity was hectic with BT accounting for 23,000 contracts out of a market total of 26,000.

Cable and Wireless, which has been strong on the back of BT, ran into profit taking, relinquishing 12p of its recent progress at 428p.

At the close, the FT-30 index, which now includes BT and National Westminster Bank instead of Bower Industries and the TI Group, was down 7.4 at 917.5 points.

The FT SE share index, where BT has ousted Johnson Matthey, closed 7.9 down from its 1183.8 point peak achieved in the BT celebration on Monday.

Sentiment was not helped by a succession of often good, occasionally disappointing, results from a clutch of leading companies.

Trafalgar House, profits up 43 per cent, fell 9p to 311p; General Electric Co. (16 per cent higher) lost 8p to 224p; and Paddy Peck (69 per cent up) eased 15p to 224p. But two food groups, Argill Group and Ranks Hovis McDougall, managed to produce profits which had not been discounted and recorded headway.

Oils were mostly lower although Osceola, with South American dreams, surged 20p to 93p.

James Latham, the Clapton, London, timber merchant, gained 18p to 283p. Figures are due next week.

The withdrawal of the St Pauls Stores bid, leaving just two contenders in the field, chipped Cullen's Stores, the A shares falling 20p to 350p.

Gilt were moderately lively, at one time achieving gains of up to 1/4 on the back of firmer sterling. But in after-hours trading gains were trimmed 1/2 of 1/2.

Banking shares also made a fine showing for much of the day. But late selling, in the case of Lloyds Bank, turned the rise into a fall on the day and sharply eroded the gains scored by the other three major lenders.

British Printing and Communications fell 2p to 168p on the issue of the John Waddington defence document. Waddington, weak lately, jumped 23p to 528p. The BPCC offer is 500p a share.

Among hi-technology engineers, British Aerospace dipped 7p to 368p, Flight Refuelling lost 7p to 297p and Lucas Industries, which recently reported better-than-expected full-year results, lost 6p to 277p in the generally dull market atmosphere.

Tobacco shares were also in the doldrums, with BAT Industries down 7p to 306p, Rothmans 5p lower at 167p and Imperial unchanged at the close at 173p, having been pennies down earlier.

Smith & Nephew, the medical supplies group, announces full-year figures week, and the

USM dealings in the shares of Rex Williams Leisure, which supplies pool and snooker tables to pubs, are due to start tomorrow. Margrets & Addenbrooke, East, Newton, the stockbroker, is placing the shares at 20p and, despite the problems of Riley Leisure (the shares have fallen from 139p to 39p this year), RNL should achieve at least a 25p opening price.

shares slipped 6p off their recent best levels to 219p.

There was also slippage for other companies in the pharmaceutical sector, with Glaxo Holdings 7p lower at 1055p and

Beecham Group 5p down at 378p.

Chemicals companies showed mixed fortunes yesterday, with shares such as Brent Chemicals, Coalite and Coates Brothers gaining pennies. But ICI eased 6p to 674p, and BOC Group, which reports figures on Thursday, lost 3p to 254p.

Allied Colloids reports half-year profits on Thursday, and these shares were unchanged at 215p.

A rush of American companies to the London market is expected this month - before new EEC-inspired rules make a London listing more expensive and more difficult.

Shares of PPH Group, which manages company vehicle fleets and buys and sells houses for relocated executives, will make their debut today. Opening price should be about £29.

Beer shares were subdued ahead of tomorrow's figures from the Bass brewing group. Matthew Brown gained 2p to 226p on its profit improvement, announced on Monday, and Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, reporting next week, edged ahead 2p to 260p.

Alfred Freedy, the confectioner and tobacconist which also reports next week, remained firm, gaining 2p to 118p. Reliant Motor, interim results on Friday, fell 2p to 34p. BL was also dull, down 2p to 39p.

Midland support helped Carpets International, up 2p to 25p.

Kadea Group dipped 12p to 180p and Matthew Hall fell 8p to 290p on profits disappointment. In textiles, David Dixon surrendered almost all the gain which immediately followed its profit announcement, relapsing to 126p, just 1p firmer.

On the USM lists, Body Shop International came in for some profit-taking, falling 20p to 455p. Britat Group received similar attentions and lost 10p to 248p.

TEMPUS

Argyll shares climb as confidence grows

The Argyll Group has been building up a steady following in recent months and the shares have risen by more than 80p since full-year results were announced in June. Another 6p rise yesterday took the price to 236p as resistance to what many brokers see as one of the best bets in the food retailing sector was broken down further.

The main problem for Argyll has been to convince the City that it can do more than simply turn round badly managed businesses. The organic growth now being seen from the Presto chain should help its case.

Another reason for Argyll's discount to the sector has been its drinks division. A poor performance in the US, where dollar profits dropped, justifies some scepticism, but the group is confident about the second half and currency differences will provide welcome compensation.

Benefits from the Amos Hinton acquisition will not be seen until the next financial year but Argyll is still well placed to make about £51 million in the full year. The shares still look good value.

Lord Weinstock's GEC still looks a little lost. It ranks among Britain's top three companies, has the sort of cash most companies envy, but in terms of strategy, few can see which way it wants to jump.

In the summer it tried to spend some of the accumulated £1.5 billion on British Aerospace. The talks came to naught. At that time the share price was sliding along the floor in the low 160s and brokers were divided over whether to switch or hold.

By the end of September, cash in the bank and short-term investments had grown to £1.63 billion. The interest on that and currency adjustments

provided a quarter of the half-yearly pretax profits. GEC reported yesterday. A further third came from electronics systems and components. Seven other divisions made up the rest, most of them showing a rather flat performance.

Electronics showed an outstanding 25 per cent increase to £108 million. Overall, GEC's pre-tax figure came out 16 per cent higher at £332 million on a turnover barely changed at £2.8 billion.

The shares were unimpressed, despite a 17 per cent lift in the interim dividend to 1.35p. They eased 6p to 226p, not helped by a falling market. The price has performed much in line with the market since August, touching 236p at one point.

This year will be a good one for the group with full-year profits to next March up 12 per cent to around £750 million. But GEC looks fully valued at this price level and hitherto has had no real rival in the sector. British Telecom looks likely to become one and may this inspire some strategic life yet in GEC, whose market capitalization of more than £5 billion, is just more than half that of British Telecom.

After three years of rationalization, restructuring, divestment and general misery Ranks Hovis McDougall has at last been able to present some tangible evidence of the benefits of this sea change.

Yesterday's pretax profits of £51.1 million ahead of expectations, and to emphasize the new air of vitality at RHM the statement talked optimistically about the prospects for 1985 and - more surprisingly - 1986.

The total cost of the three-year programme, which includes a £40 million investment in bakeries, has been about £80 million. It has been

money well spent. The group now works from a much sounder financial base and has a portfolio of interests which are well placed to capitalize on improving market conditions.

Even the bakeries which have proved to be a drain on resources in the past are set to break even next year.

The figures failed to lift the share price significantly; it rose a mere 1 1/2p to 114 1/2p. The shares have had a good run and those who sold at a lower level are perhaps reluctant to come in again at this new price.

However, there is room for modest growth in the short term and there is great confidence about the longer term prospects. With talk of a bid for RHM never far away, the shares look attractive.

Matthew Hall

The relentless rise in the profits of Matthew Hall, the contract engineer, continues, despite the miners' dispute which will cost the group £750,000 this year and persistent losses in the United States.

In the first nine months of this year, pretax profits rose from £9.7 million to £10.3 million and the group is forecasting that the full year will map out at about £14 million, against £12.9 million last time.

With the group's cash mountain still hovering at about the £45 million mark and the current order book 10 per cent up on this time last year, it is small wonder that the shares are afforded such a generous rating compared with company's bigger if less successful competitors, John Brown and Davy Corporation.

If there is a worry, it is that the group may now feel the time is ripe for a big acquisition and this could cause some short-term weakness in the price.

The Scottish Metropolitan Property PLC

"Further Growth in Value of Property Portfolio."

Main points from the Report for the year ended 15th August, 1984, and the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. David Walton, CSU JP Hon FRCPs (Glasg.)

* Increase in Net Revenue from Properties to £7.1m (£6.8m).

* Dividend payment increased to 3.75p net per share (3.5p).

* Internal property valuation at 15th August 1984 amounted to £118.7m, producing a surplus of £7.87m.

* Net assets per Share have risen to 110p per share.

* New investment and development activity will continue in areas where full potential can be exploited.

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Interim Report

Group results for the nine months to 30 September 1984

	9 months to 30 Sept 84 £000	9 months to 30 Sept 83 £000	Year to 31 Dec 83 £000
Turnover	271,203	269,817	361,165
Profit on trading			
Mechanical and electrical	3,859	3,881	5,186
Oil, gas, chemical and mining	3,127	2,420	3,066
	6,986	6,301	8,272
Interest receivable (net)	3,553	3,377	4,590
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	10,539	9,678	12,862
Taxation charge for the period	(5,401)	(5,707)	(7,080)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	5,138	3,971	5,782
Outside shareholders' interests	1	(1)	(2)
Profit before extraordinary item	5,139	3,970	5,780
Extraordinary item - deferred taxation	-	-	(1,877)
Profit attributable to shareholders	5,139	3,970	3,903
Ordinary dividends	461	436	2,383
Earnings per share after taxation	15.03p	11.82p	16.91p

Note: The nine months' results for both years are unaudited. The results for the year 1983 shown above are an abridged version of the audited accounts of that year which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies; the Report of the Auditors was unqualified.

Salient Points from the Interim Report to Shareholders

- Group pre-tax profit £10,539m, an increase of 9%.
- Good results from mechanical and electrical sector.
- Oil, gas and chemical UK and Dutch companies have achieved our expectations. Improvement seen in USA and Asia-Pacific. Mining in USA gradually improving but results affected by UK miners' strike.
- Despite keen competition pre-tax profit for full year expected to be around £14m.
- Interim dividend 1.35p per share.

Matthew Hall PLC

Matthew Hall House, 7 Baker Street, London W1M 1AB

Telephone: 01-635 6284 Telex: 229441

Ranks Hovis McDougall profits at £51 million

*Increased dividends *Earnings per share up

Final Dividend Increased

The profit for the financial year attributable to the members of the Company is £24.7 million. The directors recommend a final dividend of 2.756 pence per share on the Ordinary shares which represents an increase of 12.5 per cent over last year's final dividend. With the interim dividend already paid, dividends total 4.356 pence per share, absorbing £12,212,000. Together with the related tax credit at the rate of 30 per cent the total dividend is the equivalent of 6.223 pence per share for the year.

Profits increased by £7 million

The Group's profit before taxation for the financial year to 1 September 1984 was £51.1 million compared with £44.1 million for the previous year. External sales, excluding the agricultural division, increased from £1,180 million to £1,230 million.

The record profits were attributable to a general improvement in the results of most parts of the Group with good increases from our flour milling, packaged cake and grocery activities. British Bakeries, despite a very competitive market place, reported a further significant reduction in its trading loss. Trading profits in the United States were below those of the previous year whereas profits in the Pacific region showed further improvement.

Interest payable for the year was halved mainly as a result of the disposal of the agricultural division at the end of the previous financial year.

An encouraging outlook

The first results from the divestment and stringent rationalisation measures we have been taking over the last three years are reflected in the profits reported above, and I expect further significant improvements to show in 1985 and 1986.

Our profits to date are well ahead of last year and I expect the results for the half-year to confirm this improving trend.

P W J Reynolds, Chairman

Results in brief	1984	1983
External sales	£1,230m	£1,180m
Profit before taxation	£51.1m	£44.1m
Funds employed	£474m	£465m
Return on funds employed	13.1%	12.6%
Net tangible assets per Ordinary share	92.5p	90.2p
Earnings per Ordinary share	12.3p	10.9p
Dividends per Ordinary share	4.356p	3.974p

RHM

RANKS HOVIS MCDUGALL PLC

The 1984 Annual Report will be available from 27 December. If you wish to have a copy please write to: The Secretary, Ranks Hovis McDougall PLC, P.O. Box 178, Alma Road, Windsor, Berks SL4 1ST

The General Electric Company plc Interim Report

1. The unaudited results for the six months ended 30th September 1984 are:

	6 months to 30th Sept. 1984 £ million	6 months to 30th Sept. 1983 £ million	Year to 31st March 1984 £ million
Profit before taxation	332	285	671
Estimated taxation	141	117	268
	191	168	403
Minority Interests	9	4	13
	182	164	390
Earnings per share	6.6p	6.0p	14.2p

2. The directors have declared an interim dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 1.35p (1983, 1.15p) per share payable on 19th March 1985 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 14th February 1985. The cost of the interim dividend is £37 million (1983, £32 million).

3. Profits of the principal activities increased from £218 million to £243 million. This was achieved despite lower returns from a number of businesses affected by a reduction in demand or by other adverse factors. The order book at 30th September was 4 per cent higher than at 31st March 1984; orders received in the six months were 13 per cent higher than in the same period of the previous year, with export orders up from £406 million to £640 million.

4. Principal Activities

	Profit before Tax 1984 £m	1983 £m	Turnover 1984 £m	1983 £m
Electronic Systems and Components	108	86	864	716
Telecommunications and Business Systems	40	36	366	345
Automation and Control	19	22	221	205
Medical Equipment	14	13	230	205
Power Generation	26	23	297	294
Electrical Equipment	19	20	355	329
Consumer Products	11	12	135	133
Distribution and Trading	6	6	111	93
	243	218	2,579	2,320
Associated companies	11	14	184	206
Activities sold Subsidiaries	—	(1)	—	(2)
Associated companies	—	2	2	49
Other activities and items	(6)	(4)	29	23
Income receivable, less interest payable from loans, deposits and investments, including revaluation adjustments	84	56	—	—
	332	285	2,794	2,618

5. Interest receivable in 1984 of £84 million includes an adjustment of £11 million credit in respect of revaluation of the Company's holding of foreign currencies. There was no material adjustment in respect of the six months to 30th September 1983, but there was a credit of £14 million for the financial year to 31st March 1984.

6. Bank deposits, short-term investments and net balances with bankers amounted to £1,637 million at 30th September 1984 (£1,516 million at 31st March 1984).

7. (a) Territorial analysis of results of Principal Activities

	Profit before Tax 1984 £m	1983 £m	Turnover 1984 £m	1983 £m
United Kingdom	173	169	1,234	1,097
Rest of Europe	17	10	235	230
The Americas	43	25	564	452
Australasia	5	7	127	114
Asia	5	6	304	318
Africa	1	1	115	119
	243	218	2,579	2,320

(b) Sales to customers excluding inter-Group and associated companies

	1984 £m	1983 £m
	2,432	2,221

(c) Exports from the United Kingdom

	1984 £m	1983 £m
	558	575

SEC

£6.4m electronics order placed

China navy buys British

By John Lawless

China has held talks with Britain about re-equipping its 2,400-ship navy with advanced systems. The commander of the country's naval forces, Mr Liu Huaqing, is known to have visited Britain for talks with both the Ministry of Defence and several military equipment suppliers.

Mr Liu is also thought to have held talks with other western nations, but the first British order has been placed.

Marconi Communications has a £6.4 million contract to supply a high-frequency communications system similar to that already in use with the United States, Dutch, Greek and Nigerian navies.

The size of the order belies the potential exports. The

Chinese navy is one of the largest in the world (with four times more personnel than the Royal Navy), but the standard of its hardware is said by observers to be well below that required of a modern fleet.

The system ordered is known as the NTC2, which is likely to be used in frigates, destroyers and in an onshore communications base. The original "naval tactical command" system was developed for smaller vessels.

It has been advanced by using a Scafox control system and by applying techniques used in the "integrated communications system", as fitted in all Royal Navy Type 22 frigates, the invincible-type light aircraft carriers, Type 42

destroyers and other ships. The US Navy has placed a similar order to equip a new helicopter dock ship that is up to three times as large as the Invincibles.

The Marconi order is thought to be the first given by China to any western electronics company for naval equipment. Negotiations with other companies have been in progress for more than 18 months and the visit of an officer of Mr Liu Huaqing's seniority is an indication of the advanced stage of the talks.

Peking has almost certainly embarked on a long-term programme to upgrade its fleet, but it is thought to be mainly concerned to commission a sufficient number of advanced ships to protect its offshore oil explorations.

EEC and Japan close to video export accord

Tokyo (AP-Dow Jones) — Viscount Etsu-no Davignon, vice-president of the Commission of European Communities, said that the European Economic Committee and Japan may come to an agreement early next week on video tape recorder (VTR) export restraints for next year.

Viscount said the two have agreed to continue the talks into next week and not to make public particulars of the discussions.

Working-level talks between the EEC and Japan began Tokyo last week, but meetings between Viscount Davignon and Ms Keijiro Murata, Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, began on Monday.

The EEC believes the (vtr) market will be about 5 million units in 1985, while Japan claims demand will be around 6

million units. The two parties agreed last November to limit Japanese exports for 1984 to 3.95 million finished units plus 1.1 million semi-manufactured units.

Viscount Davignon also said: "We at the EEC have not been very successful at seeing our exports (to Japan) increase". But he pointed out that bilateral ties have greatly improved from what used to be "a non-existent relationship", thanks to increased dialogue.

He said the biggest obstacles in the bilateral relations remain Japan's inadequate imports and distribution of goods, low investment in Europe and insufficient liberalization of its financial markets.

He said the time had come for Japan and the EC to break away from broad discussions of cooperation and talk about specific areas of friction.

Peking considers buying the Airbus

Paris (AP-Dow Jones) — The Airbus Industrie consortium stands a good chance of winning a Chinese order for three A310 Airbus commercial jets, Mr Jean Auroux, the French transport minister, said yesterday.

The Airbus talks are part of a broad drive by French companies to win contracts and boost trade in the transport sector, M Auroux said. The transfer of technology France to China will play an important role in this, he said.

M Auroux, who was commenting on his recent official visit to China, said talks between the Chinese and Airbus Industrie have reached a "detailed, technical" level that could lead to the manufacture in China of parts for the consortium's A320 medium-range aircraft.

Industry sources commented,

however, that such an agreement depends entirely on whether China's aviation industry has the technological capacity to produce components of sufficiently high quality.

Also under negotiation is the sale of "several dozen" ATR 42 commuter jets being built by France's Aerospatiale in association with the Italian company Aeritalia, M Auroux said. The consortium has indicated it is willing to give a substantial amount of work to China, including the manufacture of wing boxes.

Other deals being negotiated by French companies include a car plant in China for Peugeot, the export of the Renault 5 or another Renault model in kit form for assembly in China and an export order for 3,000 Talbot Horizon cars.

W German jobless trend falls for third month

Nuremberg (Reuters) — Unemployment in West Germany rose by almost 45,000 last month, but the underlying trend fell for the third month running, the labour office said yesterday.

The office said the jobless total rose to 2.19 million, or 8.8 per cent of the workforce, from 2.14 million or 8.6 per cent in October.

When adjusted for seasonal factors, however, unemployment fell to 2.26 million from

2.28 million the previous month. In November, 1983, the figure was 2.25 million.

The adjusted figure has fallen each month since August, when it was at 2.32 million.

Separately, the economics ministry announced in Bonn yesterday that industrial production rose a provisional 2.3 per cent in October after falling slightly in September. The figure was almost four per cent higher than in October last year.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/2 %
Adam & Company	9 1/2 %
Barclays	9 1/2 %
BCCI	9 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	11 1/2 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
Continental Trust	9 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Midland Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSB	9 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2 %
Citibank NA	9 1/2 %

1 Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6 1/2 %; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7 1/2 %; £50,000 and over, 8 %.

McKechnie Brothers plc

Pre-tax profit increased 31%

Extract from the Chairman's Review:
"I am pleased to report a continued improvement in results from both our subsidiaries and our associates — pre-tax profits of £14.49m, 31% up on last year; a lower tax charge leading to profits after tax before extraordinary items up by 50%; comparable earnings per share increased from 13.6p to 17.3p per share — are all sources of satisfaction."

Dr J. M. Butler

Summary of results		
Year ended	1984	1983
31st July	£000	£000
Turnover	202,834	158,108
Profit before taxation	14,491	11,072
Ordinary dividend	4,380	4,163
Ordinary dividend per share	2.2785p	2.2765p
Earnings per share	17.3p	13.6p

Principal Activities:
McKechnie Brothers plc is an industrial holding company with international operations serving a wide variety of manufacturing and consumer outlets.
In the United Kingdom the company is:
— one of the largest plastics processing groups supplying especially the electronics, telecommunications and transport industries.

a leading manufacturer of consumer goods for the home and garden.
— a major producer of copper based materials: extrusions, agrochemicals and powders.
In South Africa and New Zealand we have expanded and diversified to become principal sources of wrought non-ferrous metals, and Associates of the Group manufacture plumbers' brassware. In Australia the Group has interests in plastic packaging.

McKechnie Brothers plc

Leighwood Road, Alkridge, Walsall WS8 8DS.

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5th December, 1984

Ian Turgiss on 126 - [view more](#)

RACING: 1983 GRAND NATIONAL WINNER TO BE RESTED AND SENT HUNTING

Corbiere follows fresh trail to Aintree

By Michael Seely

Corbiere, the 1983 Grand National winner, is to be given a rest and sent hunting before attempting to repeat his Aintree victory in the spring. "I think he has temporarily got a bit fed up after humping 12st round Aintree into third place behind a Hallo Dandy last season," says Jenny Pitman, his trainer. "You saw it at Sandown on Saturday when he was unplaced behind Little Polvein." Mrs Pitman continued: "When the leader started to stretch out and fly the railway fences the last time round, he found it all too much for him. It used to happen to Red Rum a bit but he still managed to win three Nationals. This means that Corbiere will have to miss the Welsh National, which I win in the past two seasons."

Mrs Pitman plans to send the nine-year-old out with the Vine and Craven, who hunt in the Lambourn area. "Paul Price, who used to work for me but is now back in his father's building business, will ride him."

He's one of my team of Saturday helpers who come to give a hand at the weekends. I hope the hounds will be wearing little suits of armour playing as Corbiere can be a bit frisky. He's never been hunting before, and he'll love it."

The trainer then confirmed that Burrough Hill Lad remained on course for his meeting with Wayward Lad in the Charlie Hall Memorial Pattern Chase at Wetherby on Saturday, for which there were five acceptors at yesterday's four-stage declarations.

"I don't care if we have to take on Wayward Lad before Kempton. Wetherby's a good galloping track, which will suit us well. And the race is worth £10,000 more than the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock the following week."

Speaking from her Yorkshire flatness at Harewood, Monica Dickinson appeared to be unmoved at the thought of Mrs Pitman's proposed invasion. "Burrough Hill Lad or no Burrough Hill Lad, Wayward Lad will run. It's been our long-term plan and we're sticking to it."

The trainer then said that Brownie's Gazette, his recent winner of the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle, will travel to Cheltenham to take on Gaye Brief in the £15,000 Bula Hurdle the same afternoon.

Only six have accepted for the Champion Hurdle trial, but 13 were declared for the Kennedy Construction Gold Cup. Fred Winter will be attempting to win this two and a half mile thriller for the third consecutive year with Carved Opal. The Tsarevich, Classified, Acarine and Beau Ranger are likely opponents for last week's easy Huntingdon winner.

Mrs Pitman was at Leicester to watch Smith's Man run out an easy winner of the Dick Christian Chase in the hands of Ben de Haan. "Smith's Man went a bit wrong in his hind last season, so we had him hobbled by Geoffrey Braine. That was very satisfactory, as I wanted to make sure he stays

of the money would have got back to the course."

However, Trevor Howard, a car dealer from Windsor, seemed well satisfied with the coup that had been executed on his wife Caroline's horse. "I'm trying to get syndicates together to have horses with Albert. Jimmy Fitzgerald continued his successful run at Leicester when Scotsman Ice easily landed the odds of 7-4 laid on the four-year-old in the Pickwell Novices' Hurdle. "This has never been lucky track for me before, but in the past four weeks I've had three winners from only four runners."

This afternoon at Hexham, Arctic Menekle is napped to win the Henocotes Handicap Chase for the Malton trainer. The nine-year-old is penalized 4lbs for his recent Nottingham victory by the length of Southwell Street. Leading by 16 points at the interval, they were pegged back to 16-12, and only a surge during the last eight minutes brought them victory by two goals, two tries and two penalty goals to a goal and two penalties.

Glasgow were short of class but, as Richie Dixon, their coach, had pointed out, they were by no means short of spirit or tackling ability. Any international side with pretensions to quality, however, should have taken the game by the scruff of the neck; even if they talk the language of a possible international place, at this stage of the tour the Australian second XV should be capable of playing with authority on heavy going, and the frustration of being out of the game, was plain to see on the tarring.

The National Hunt ladies no longer in waiting



The pace setters: four trainers whose horses could dominate the important National Hunt events this season (left to right) — Monica Dickinson, Nan Kennedy, Mercy Rimell and Jenny Pitman

Queens high in the sport of kings

A glance at the ante-post lists for National Hunt racing's two blue riband events at Cheltenham next March shows just how strong a hold women trainers now have on the sport's premier prizes.

In the Gold Cup, Burrough Hill Lad, trained by Jenny Pitman, is as low as 6-1 to retain his crown and Wayward Lad (Monica Dickinson), a 5-1 chance, looks the only opponent who can be mentioned in the same breath. The bookmakers' offers of 20-1 bar the two reflect their domination of the steeplechasing scene.

On the hurdling front, Gaye Brief (Mercy Rimell) is very much in a class of his own and he is only 5-4 to regain the title he won in 1983. Ra Nova (Nan Kennedy) and Brownie's Gazette (Mrs Dickinson), currently joint second favourites at 12-1, head the queue of those waiting in the wings.

The 10-year table shows that last season women trained 221 winners, 60 per cent more than in the first season of the table. Of far greater significance, though, is the win prize money which shows an increase each season on the previous season, culminating in 1983-84 with a figure of £454,681 — almost seven times the 1974-75 total.

While comparisons involving prize money are obviously affected by inflation, they nonetheless highlight the success women trainers have had in the more valuable races since the turn of the decade.

Of the 15 principal National Hunt races listed in the *Directory of the Turf*, only one was won by a woman in the Seventies, already this decade seven of the 15 fallen to women trainers.

Peaty Sandy started the ball rolling in the 1981 Welsh Grand National and this

triumph was quickly followed by Shiny Copper (1982 Triumph Hurdle), Corbiere (1982 Welsh National), Gaye Brief (1983 Champion Hurdle), Corbiere (1983 Grand National), Burrough Hill Lad (1983 Welsh National), Ra Nova (1984 Schweppes Gold Trophy) and Burrough Hill Lad (1984 Cheltenham Gold Cup and Hennessy Gold Cup).

All may be set fair for the women now but, as Jenny Pitman will tell you, it has been far from plain sailing. "At the start the blokes looked upon us as something of an irritation," Mrs Pitman says, "but we've proved we're every bit as good as them. Horses are like kids. They need a lot of love and we're more understanding and sympathetic than the men."

Mercy Rimell, who took over her Kinnerley stable on the death of her husband, Fred, in 1981, has a different viewpoint and is at pains to emphasize the part Dame Fortune has played in her success.

"Jenny and I are lucky to have two such exceptional horses as Burrough Hill Lad

Richards set for a double

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Gordon Richards looks the trainer to follow at Hexham today, when there will be only one meeting now that Worcester has been abandoned because of the waterlogged state of the course. With Preben Fur declared for the Henocotes Handicap Chase and Sausage also standing his ground for the Gilesgate Novices' Chase, the successful Greyhound trainer appears to have excellent prospects of landing a double.

After an extremely encouraging run behind Hardy Lad on his seasonal debut at Newcastle, Preben Fur is napped to win the day's most valuable prize. His form received a considerable boost at Newcastle last Saturday, when Hardy Lad no nearly beat a rejuvenated Peaty Sandy at the end of a memorable race for the Ladbrooke Trophy.

Arctic Menekle, from Jimmy Fitzgerald's Malton, will obviously be a tough nut to crack, because he has shown himself to be in irrepressible form this season by winning both his races, the second at Nottingham, where he accounted for that smart chaser, Branton Park, albeit a difference of a stone. However, now that his weight has been increased to 11st 3lb by 4lb penalty, I feel bound to question his ability to give as much as 11lb to Preben Fur, who could win at attractive odds.

Sausage, who won a novice's chase by as much as 25 lengths at Southwell 12 days ago, should follow that triumph with another in the novices' chase. However, his price is not likely to be palatable.

Better odds should be available about Colwyn Rowan, who is selection to win the Ladbrooke Handicap Hurdle.

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Better odds should be available about Colwyn Rowan, who is selection to win the Ladbrooke Handicap Hurdle.



Holding operation: Wallabies apply the brakes on Brown, the Glasgow captain

Spirited Glasgow team fall to late surge by Australians

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

Glasgow 12
Australians 26

For a time during the second half at Highbury yesterday it looked as though the Australians would continue to lose a match they were winning by the length of Southwell Street. Leading by 16 points at the interval, they were pegged back to 16-12, and only a surge during the last eight minutes brought them victory by two goals, two tries and two penalty goals to a goal and two penalties.

Glasgow were short of class but, as Richie Dixon, their coach, had pointed out, they were by no means short of spirit or tackling ability. Any international side with pretensions to quality, however, should have taken the game by the scruff of the neck; even if they talk the language of a possible international place, at this stage of the tour the Australian second XV should be capable of playing with authority on heavy going, and the frustration of being out of the game, was plain to see on the tarring.

The worst affected area was the midfield, where the Australians were handicapped by Cox's laboured service. The Glasgow back row and centres created any amount of indecision from which the ball was dropped nearly as many times as in the previous 14 matches put together. Fortunately they had in Lane a player shrewd enough to take advantage of the many broken fields and, in Williams, a wing fast enough to finish properly, and ability which eluded Hanley on the left.

Campbell dominated the lineout against a Glasgow side disrupted by the loss, midway through each half, of McGuinness, their international prop, with a split eyebrow, and Stuart Hamilton, who departed barely able to see out of one eye. Despite that, Livingston took two strikes against the head, a happy reward for so wholehearted a servant of his district, and Nicolson, the bouncing little fly scrum half, was able to check the Australian back row with his little darts and probes.

It was fitting that Nicolson should score his side's try after a misjudged fly back by Black, who rebounded to McCullum. Any prospect of Glas-

New York football celebrity nearly became a rodeo rider

Big-city behemoth who collects tomahawks has a playful side



Gastineau: showmanship

He is known as number 99, like the ice cream, but there is nothing sweet or melting about this character. Mark Gastineau, the New York Jets' defensive end, has more in common with a moose than a vanilla cone.

Even among the freakish mammals of American football, Gastineau, 26, stands out as a special, size, strength and sheer exhibitionism have made him famous, so it was all the more shocking when he made the front page of the New York tabloids for assaulting a 23-year-old male model in the Manhattan nightclub Studio 54, last year. On his twenty-eighth birthday last week he was sentenced to 90 days of community service at a New York prison, having been convicted of the assault, which took place after he allegedly lost an arm-wrestling contest with the model, Steven Seagal.

"Justice was done," said Seagal. "I hope Mr Gastineau has learned, whether you lose at arm-wrestling or anything else, it is important to lose gracefully and to leave violence on the football field."

But Gastineau protested his innocence throughout, claiming not to let his ego get the best of him. Last season, when Gastineau tackled Vince Ferragamo, and launched into his dance routine, a Rams line-backer pushed him and a bench-empting brawl ensued.

Gastineau, however, asserts that he is really just a pussycat, a small town boy from Oklahoma. As a product of Wild West Culture, he has nurtured fan worship in New York, and he has been, since last January when a wild bull escaped from its cage and was cornered down the high street until Gastineau twirled his lasso and tied it to a palm tree.

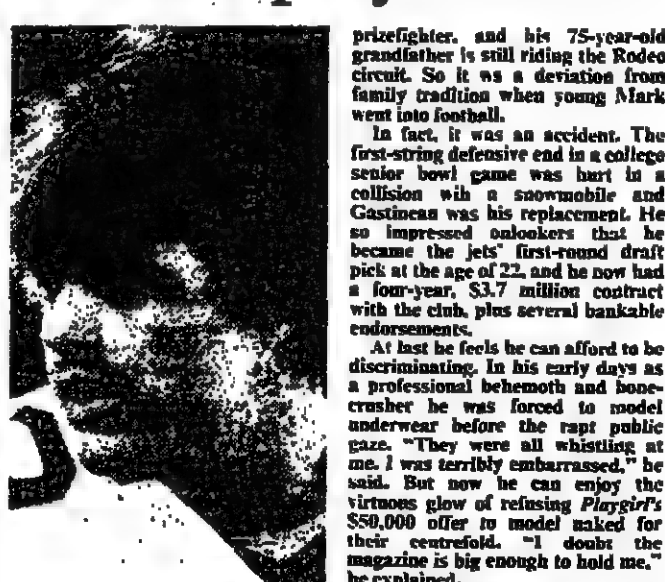
His father, Ernie, is a former prizefighter, and his 75-year-old grandfather is still riding the Rodeo circuit. So it is a deviation from family tradition when young Mark went into football.

In fact, it was an accident. The first-string defensive end in a college senior bowl game was hurt in a collision with a sawmiller and Gastineau was his replacement. He so impressed onlookers that he became the jets' first-round draft pick at the age of 22, and he now had a four-year, \$3.7 million contract with the club, plus several bankable endorsements.

At last he feels he can afford to be discriminating. In his early days as a professional behemoth and bone-crusher he was forced to wear a helmet (he's still wearing it) and to endure the NFL regular season record of 21.

Gastineau (his family have French roots and traces of black blood in their veins) to which he attributes his extraordinary speed — 40 yards in 4.5 seconds — is a dedicated body-builder and martial arts expert, so intent on giving the world the maximum benefit of his muscular physique that he shaves the hairs off his chest.

When he is not shaving, training or dancing, the gender side of Gastineau finds its outlet in archaeological digs in New Mexico and the collection of Indian tomahawks.



Gastineau: showmanship

He is known as number 99, like the ice cream, but there is nothing sweet or melting about this character. Mark Gastineau, the New York Jets' defensive end, has more in common with a moose than a vanilla cone.

Even among the freakish mammals of American football, Gastineau, 26, stands out as a special, size, strength and sheer exhibitionism have made him famous, so it was all the more shocking when he made the front page of the New York tabloids for assaulting a 23-year-old male model in the Manhattan nightclub Studio 54, last year. On his twenty-eighth birthday last week he was sentenced to 90 days of community service at a New York prison, having been convicted of the assault, which took place after he allegedly lost an arm-wrestling contest with the model, Steven Seagal.

"Justice was done," said Seagal. "I hope Mr Gastineau has learned, whether you lose at arm-wrestling or anything else, it is important to lose gracefully and to leave violence on the football field."

But Gastineau protested his innocence throughout, claiming not to let his ego get the best of him. Last season, when Gastineau tackled Vince Ferragamo, and launched into his dance routine, a Rams line-backer pushed him and a bench-empting brawl ensued.

Gastineau, however, asserts that he is really just a pussycat, a small town boy from Oklahoma. As a product of Wild West Culture, he has nurtured fan worship in New York, and he has been, since last January when a wild bull escaped from its cage and was cornered down the high street until Gastineau twirled his lasso and tied it to a palm tree.

His father, Ernie, is a former prizefighter, and his 75-year-old grandfather is still riding the Rodeo circuit. So it is a deviation from family tradition when young Mark went into football.

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HEXHAM

GOING: Heavy
12.45 PRIESTOPPLE HANDICAP CHASE (E337: 2m) (5 runners)
21st-31st PRESS GAME (C) (A) (B) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

2.15 GLESGATE NOVICE CHASE (E388: 2m) (7)

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City, 25-30 years experience

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 1984
THE TIMES
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DEATHS

BRIDGES - On November 28th, 1984, at the age of 82, after a long illness, Mrs. Mary Bridges, nee Jones, of 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH, died. She is survived by her husband, Mr. John Bridges, and two sons, Mr. Peter and Mr. David. A funeral service will be held at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 12th, at St. Andrew's Church, Wokingham. Burial in the churchyard. Condolences may be expressed to the family at the home of Mrs. M. Jones, 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BRIDGES - We wish to thank all those who have expressed their sympathy and support during the past few weeks. In particular, we are grateful to Mrs. M. Jones, 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH, for her kind hospitality and for the many gifts and flowers received. We are also grateful to the staff of St. Andrew's Church, Wokingham, for their help and support.

IN MEMORIAM

BRIDGES - We remember with affection the many happy days spent together. Your memory will always be a source of comfort and strength to us. We are grateful to all those who have expressed their sympathy and support during the past few weeks. In particular, we are grateful to Mrs. M. Jones, 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH, for her kind hospitality and for the many gifts and flowers received. We are also grateful to the staff of St. Andrew's Church, Wokingham, for their help and support.

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BIRTHDAYS

BRIDGES - We wish to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. Mary Bridges, nee Jones, of 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH, who was born on December 5th, 1902. We are grateful to all those who have expressed their sympathy and support during the past few weeks. In particular, we are grateful to Mrs. M. Jones, 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH, for her kind hospitality and for the many gifts and flowers received. We are also grateful to the staff of St. Andrew's Church, Wokingham, for their help and support.

MARRIAGES

BRIDGES - We wish to announce the marriage of Mrs. Mary Bridges, nee Jones, of 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH, to Mr. John Bridges, of 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH, on November 28th, 1984. The ceremony took place at St. Andrew's Church, Wokingham. The bride was accompanied by her mother, Mrs. M. Jones, and the groom by his father, Mr. John Bridges. The reception was held at the home of Mrs. M. Jones, 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH.

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HUGE FLIGHT DISCOUNTS

As a direct result of the recent collapse of various travel organisations, we have been able to secure a number of very low fares to a wide range of destinations. These fares are available on a limited number of flights and are subject to change without notice. We are grateful to all those who have expressed their sympathy and support during the past few weeks. In particular, we are grateful to Mrs. M. Jones, 12, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2JH, for her kind hospitality and for the many gifts and flowers received. We are also grateful to the staff of St. Andrew's Church, Wokingham, for their help and support.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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DISCOUNTED FARES

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NEW LOW FARES WORLDWIDE

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AIRLINE HOLIDAYS

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COST CUTTERS on flights/book to

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CHEAP FARES, USA, Pac East

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LOWEST AIR FARES, Buckingham

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WINTER SPORTS

SKI BARGAINS DEC. JAN 85

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 Ski holidays to the Alps, Scandinavia, and other winter sports destinations. Prices are low and include all taxes.

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JANUARY BARGAINS

JANUARY BARGAINS
 Ski holidays to the Alps, Scandinavia, and other winter sports destinations. Prices are low and include all taxes.

LOOK NO FURTHER FOR DEC & JAN BARGAINS

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 Ski holidays to the Alps, Scandinavia, and other winter sports destinations. Prices are low and include all taxes.

INSTANT SKI BARGAINS

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RENTALS

PARKSIDE KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW1

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 A newly modernised flat in a prime location. Features include a fully equipped kitchen, a large living area, and a private garden. Rent is £1,200 per month.

MELBERS SHARING

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 A newly modernised flat in a prime location. Features include a fully equipped kitchen, a large living area, and a private garden. Rent is £1,200 per month.

PHILIPS KAY AND LINDSAY

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 A newly modernised flat in a prime location. Features include a fully equipped kitchen, a large living area, and a private garden. Rent is £1,200 per month.

CLOSE REIGNS PARK

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REDUCED SQUARE SW10

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GLEBE PLACE

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HYDE PARK W2

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FULHAM SW10

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 A newly modernised flat in a prime location. Features include a fully equipped kitchen, a large living area, and a private garden. Rent is £1,200 per month.

UNFURNISHED

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WISSE PROPERTIES

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HIGGATE, N6

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PUTNEY, S8

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 A newly modernised flat in a prime location. Features include a fully equipped kitchen, a large living area, and a private garden. Rent is £1,200 per month.

SERVICED APARTMENTS, Chelsea

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 A newly modernised flat in a prime location. Features include a fully equipped kitchen, a large living area, and a private garden. Rent is £1,200 per month.

GOLDERS GREEN, Mod homes, new

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THE SHORT-LET LETS Association

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CLAYDON, Cambs, W1, 494 5707

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 A newly modernised flat in a prime location. Features include a fully equipped kitchen, a large living area, and a private garden. Rent is £1,200 per month.

TREVOR PLACE, SW7

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SUSSEX GARDENS, W2

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Hampton & Sons

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FOLKARD & HAYWARD

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Marborough Place NW5

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GEORGE KNIGHT & PARTNERS

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THE LETTING AGENTS

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BELGRAVIA SW1

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CHELSEA BORDERS SW3

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FARLEY & CO.

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RENTING OR LETTING A FLAT

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WOOLVEN ESTATES

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KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

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F. W. GAPP (Management Services)

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MANCHESTER ST. W1, Luxury new

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REYNOLDS STREET NW1, Chelsea

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LUXURY PROPERTIES

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SOUTH KENSINGTON, Light and

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TO LET, house, superb, large

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 A newly modernised flat in a prime location. Features include a fully equipped kitchen, a large living area, and a private garden. Rent is £1,200 per month.

LANDLORDS' Prospectus Ltd. has

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Dayalle



CHOICE

transmuted Puccini and that the princess is a transmigrated Signor Puccini. If, however, you can swallow Mr Palmer's intentions, it will probably not share my other reservation about his film, which concerns the way it intercuts the tale of Puccini's suspected infidelity with rehearsals of the opera. The infidelity unprovoked by the opera production of Scottish Opera production of *Turandot*: in shuffling together two packs of cards, the game has become impossible to play. On the credit side, the film has Nick Knowland's highly successful camerawork and Robert Stephens's delighted and belligerent Puccini and some of Mr Palmer's *coups de théâtre* are as good as any engineered by Ken Russell at his best.

Peter Davallo

11.00 Soprano and piano recital: Shells Armstrong and Roger Vignoles. Britten's Cabaret Songs; Schumann's *Frauentheile und Leben*, Op 42; and Haydn songs including *My mother bids me braid my hair*.

11.57 News. Until 12.00.

Radio 1

On medium wave & also VHF stereo.
News on the half hour from 6.30 am until
9.30 pm and at 12 midnight. 6.00 Adrian
John. 7.00 Mike Reid. 9.00 Simon
Bates. 12.00 Gary Davies including
12.30 Newsbeat. 2.30 Steve Wright. 5.00
Bruno Brookes including 5.30
Newsbeat. 7.30 Janice Long. 10.00-
12.00 John Peel's VHF Radio 1 & 2.
4.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With
Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

7.00 World
7.30 Euro

[illegible]

7.00 News.
Week Chinner

8.05 Schubert's Galsgart unter'm hellen Dach, D 326 (Ameing/Annsjo); Jan Antonin Kozaluh's Bassoon Concerto In C (Herman, soloist); Stravinsky's Divertimento: Le baiser de la fée. 8.00 News.

As London except 1 CENTRAL As London

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also on page 28

